

## Saudis, Qataris discuss border dispute

DOHA (AP) — Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Al Thani Wednesday discussed with Saudi Arabian Defence Minister Prince Sultan means of improving relations after a flareup in border dispute between the two countries last year. The official Qatar News agency reported the meeting, saying only that the two officials explored avenues for broadening cooperation in the interest of the two sides. Prince Sultan arrived in Doha Tuesday and met with the emir, Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani. In December, the Qatari emir and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd signed an Egyptian-brokered border demarcation accord, easing tensions that had marred ties since the clash. Arab diplomatic sources said that during his talks with the Qatari crown prince, Prince Sultan voiced the kingdom's concern over Qatari overtures towards Iraq, which followed the border flareup. Qatar is the only member of the Saudi-led Gulf Cooperation Council that sent an ambassador back to Baghdad after the 1991 Gulf war. The Arab diplomatic sources, insisting on anonymity, said that Tuesday Prince Sultan snubbed Iraq's ambassador at Doha airport. The ambassador, Anwar Sabri Abdul Razzaq, opened his arms to embrace Prince Sultan, who was greeting Arab and Western diplomats lined up to welcome him. The Saudi official ignored the ambassador's gesture and walked straight past him.

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## Arab ministers to meet here in June

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab foreign ministers will meet in Jordan in early June to assess the ninth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks, Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber said Wednesday. Dr. Abu Jaber was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that he contacted foreign ministers of Syria, Egypt, Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation to hold a coordination meeting in Amman next month. "The date of the next Arab ministerial meeting was scheduled for early June," Dr. Abu Jaber said. "During the meeting, the ministers will undergo a comprehensive assessment of the peace process, particularly the ninth round of negotiations which ended in Washington recently."

## Fahd hopes to visit Tehran

IRAN (AP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati left Wednesdays for prayers at Mecca after meeting earlier with King Fahd, who reportedly said he would like to visit Iran. Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency said King Fahd, during a meeting Tuesday with Mr. Velayati, expressed a desire to meet with President Hashemi Rafsanjani in Tehran. King Fahd also had invited Mr. Rafsanjani to visit Saudi Arabia. The visit of a Saudi monarch to Iran, unprecedented since the 1979 Islamic revolution, would be a dramatic demonstration of improving ties between the two oil giants.

## Peres in China

BEIJING (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres arrived in China, Wednesday for an official visit between the two countries that established diplomatic relations only last year. An Israeli embassy official said Mr. Peres will begin his programme on Thursday by climbing the Great Wall outside Beijing, symbol of China's long history and former imperial might. He will then hold separate talks with Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, Culture Minister Liu Zhongde and Wu Xueqian, a former foreign minister and vice premier who now holds an honorary post.

## Israel, Egypt discuss reopening bank

CAIRO (AP) — Israel and Egypt opened discussions Wednesday on opening an Egyptian bank in the Israeli-occupied territories for the first time since the war in 1967. Jacob Frenkel, governor of Israel's central bank, expressed confidence after his first meeting with Egypt's central bank governor, Salah Hamed. They discussed reopening branches of the government-owned Arab Land Bank soon in the West Bank. "We can say we are in an advanced situation," Mr. Frenkel told the associated press. "I am optimistic."

## Egypt denies Sudanese charge

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt has rejected accusations by Sudan that its embassy in Khartoum has been involved in "hostile activities" against the Sudanese government. Foreign Minister Amt Musa said the allegations were "baseless" and accused "certain people in Sudan" of targeting Cairo, which has accused Khartoum of backing Islamic fundamentalist extremists in Egypt. On Tuesday the Sudanese government protested to Egyptian Ambassador Hassan Gal Al Haq for allegedly hiring a Sudanese national to carry out "hostile" activities against the regime.

## 2 reported missing near Iraqi border

KUWAIT (AP) — An Indian surveyor and an Egyptian builder working at a construction site near the Kuwait-Iraq border have gone missing. Oil Minister Ali Al Baghi said Wednesday. Sam Kutty, the Indian citizen, and co-worker Fathi Abdul Azeem, were last seen Monday working on a project, gasoline station for the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission in the demilitarised zone straddling the border, the minister said.



Palestinians carry the body of Taher Abu Atiyeh, who was shot dead by Israeli soldiers Tuesday, for burial (AFP photo).

## 2 Palestinians shot dead near Hebron

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot dead two Palestinians and blew up alleged underground hideouts Wednesday during a helicopter-backed raid, military and Arab reports said.

One victim was allegedly armed with a submachine gun and both were flushed out of a shack south of the city of Hebron by anti-tank missiles, according to the army.

The raid came amid intense violence in the occupied territories, particularly in the Gaza Strip, where nine Palestinians, including four children, have been killed in the last week. An Arab teenager was also killed in the West Bank town of Beita Monday.

Also Wednesday, army sergeant Tito Samuel died a week after being stabbed in the neck in an ambush by Palestinian assailants in the West Bank, the army announced.

The 21-year-old was stabbed May 12 in the stairwell of a house

in Nablus where he manned a lookout post. The two attackers got away with the submachine gun of the sergeant and another wounded soldier.

In Gaza, United Nations relief workers revised the death toll from army gunfire in Jabaliah town Tuesday from three to two.

They said one of the three Palestinians reported dead had been seriously wounded and transferred to hospital in Israel.

The army said Tuesday it had shot dead only one Palestinian who was carrying what later turned out to be a fake gun at a memorial service for an Islamic militant. Palestinians said nobody was carrying real or fake weapons.

Palestinians identified one of the dead Gazans as Awini Makousi, 18. The body of the other, a black Palestinian aged about 16, was taken away by soldiers, witnesses said.

The identity of the two Palestinians killed in Hebron was not disclosed.

The army said they were connected to the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas but Palestinians could not confirm this.

The army reduced the house where the two had hidden to a pile of rubble. The bloody bodies of the two were laid out in front of the ruin, their heads covered.

Hebron residents said the army had sealed off the city's western sector before searching caves and homes. Explosions were heard all night and helicopters hovered overhead.

Israeli military censors delayed publication of the report for several hours.

The army has intensified its search for Palestinian activists since sealing off the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in late March.

Hebron is a Hamas stronghold. In December, Hamas activists killed an Israeli soldier in the city.

Israelis have killed 29 Palestinians so far this month, a sharp rise in the casualty rate.

## Palestinian draft outlines peace aims

AMMAN (R) — Palestinian negotiators said Wednesday they had resumed discussions with the United States on their draft declaration of principles for Middle East peace talks.

The draft, obtained by Reuters, sets October 1994 for starting negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories because it considers the interim period began on October 30, 1992, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) sources said.

Palestinian negotiators and PLO sources confirmed the accuracy of the following English text, entitled Draft Proposal for a Declaration of Principles, and said it stated the principles to govern a final Israeli-Palestinian peace treaty.

Preamble:

The Palestinians and Israeli

side agree on the following principles in order to facilitate the progress of the negotiations and the peace process. It is the understanding of both sides that these principles, while constituting agreed upon bases for their negotiations, govern the whole process until the achievement of the detailed and final agreement.

1. The objective of the peace process is to reach a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace settlement through direct negotiations based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, the principle of land for peace and in compliance with international legality.

The negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides will be conducted in two phases, which are interlocked as an integral whole to fully implement the

aforementioned resolutions, principles and legality.

It is the understanding of both sides that nothing should be done in the interim period that may preempt or prejudice the outcome of the final status negotiations. The agreement reached will achieve the full implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

2. A Palestinian interim self-governing authority (hereinafter PISGA) will be established through free, general and direct elections, under agreed appropriate international supervision.

All Palestinians who on June 4th (1967) were listed on the relevant population registers in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, as

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## Jardaneh says sales tax is inevitable

By Samir Shafiq  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh Tuesday night clear sought to the ambiguities that surround the proposed sales tax issue for months and said in a televised programme, that the new tax was only a step towards reforming the entire taxing structure.

The sales tax, the minister said, is the first stage of a three stage programme to implement a value-added-tax system in the Kingdom.

The second stage would involve taxing wholesalers after a period of five to seven years, and the third stage would tax retailers at a later date.

The minister said that the first stage of the sales tax was only an extension of the consumption tax, now in force, with minor changes which, through some additions

would neutralise the financial effect on the Treasury.

Middle and low-income citizens would not be burdened, the minister explained, because the sales tax would be imposed mostly on goods and services seen as highly luxurious.

Mr. Jardaneh pointed out that imposition of the tax was a condition set by international donors and creditors.

Without a sales tax paving the way for a value-added-tax, the minister said, Jordan will not be given a grant of a low-interest \$400 million "exceptional funding" to support the balance of payment.

He warned that unless the sales tax is passed, Jordan has no alternative but to dig for other sources of financing even if it has to be local.

Mr. Jardaneh told viewers that the prime minister had personally

intervened with international bodies to postpone the introduction of the sales tax until the climate becomes more appropriate.

Mr. Jardaneh strongly denied assertions that the sales tax would hurt the middle and low-income

(Continued on page 5)

and protection for ordinary workers in Europe."

Nearly 50 per cent of the 3.4 million voters who turned out approved the treaty Tuesday, overturning a decision last year to reject the accord, which calls for a common foreign policy and a single currency.

The Danes voted again after being granted exemptions from key provisions on defence policy, a single currency and citizenship, they also were allowed to opt out of the police and judicial cooperation.

The outcome cleared the way for Britain to end its holdout and vote on the accord.

British Prime Minister John Major appealed to treaty opponents for approval. "The sooner we put this debilitating period behind us, the better," he said late Tuesday in London.

His Conservative government

put off a vote in parliament until after the Danish referendum.

"What we have done today is taken a decision that has historic importance," Mr. Nyrop Rasmussen said in declaring victory Tuesday night.

But shortly after the results were announced, riots broke out in the centre of Copenhagen in one of the most violent battles with leftist anarchists in decades.

Danish police, who seldom draw their pistols, shot and wounded demonstrators. Mr. Nyrop Rasmussen defended the police, saying it was a matter of "life and death."

"Quite a high number of wounded policemen were lying on the ground in a very, very dangerous situation," he said at a news conference. He said the late Tuesday in London.

(Continued on page 5)

He repeatedly appealed to the public to understand that for the Kingdom to continue on a healthy economic course in the future, there was no escape for any government from relying on international revenues and export earnings.

"Nearly 40 per cent of government revenues come from customs," he said.

"We intend to raise the percentage to 60 per cent by 1998."

Mr. Jardaneh said that the prime minister had agreed to specify in the proposed law that the second stage of the sales tax would be introduced by a law and not by regulations.

He also revealed that industries were guaranteed by law a 30 per cent minimum protection level.

Mr. Jardaneh strongly denied assertions that the sales tax would hurt the middle and low-income

(Continued on page 5)

## Egypt arrests 800 in secret cells

Cairo (R) — Egypt, battling Muslim fundamentalists, has arrested more than 800 members of a group running school and university secret cells in a campaign to topple the government. Security sources said police had detained 822 members of a group called the Vanguards of the New Holy Struggle and charged them with forming an illegal organization. They said religious tapes and books designed to win the hearts and minds of students were seized during 10 days of swoops in several parts of the country. Police Major-General Ahmad Al Adi told a news conference police had confiscated more than 2,000 cassettes, 1,600 books and 11 videotapes that called for the overthrow of the government, discrimination against Egypt's Christian minority, and violence to establish a purist Islamic state. He said some of the tapes contained sermons by Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, a blind preacher in the United States whose followers have been linked to February's bombing of the New York's World Trade Centre (see page 2). Security sources said the arrests took place in Cairo's northern suburbs, the Nile Delta provinces of Sharqiya and Qalyoubiya and the city of Alexandria. There are well away from the known centres of Muslim militant violence in Cairo's Imbaba slum and the Assuit area of Upper Egypt, where gunmen shot dead the mayor of a Christian village on Wednesday.

accelerate the pace of the negotiations," one of the sources told the Jordan Times.

Among other topics for discussion are, according to the source, Jordanian-American relations as well as the democratisation process under way in the Kingdom.

President Clinton and his senior aides, including Secretary of State Warren Christopher, have expressed their admiration for the King's moves in introducing and incorporating democracy into Jordan's life.

Experts from the mainstream American political spectrum have said that Jordan should serve as an example for other countries in the region in the growing global trend towards democracy.

The enforcement of sanctions against Iraq, whose sole official lifeline to the outside world is through Jordan, is also expected to be raised by the American side during the meetings in Washington.

## King and Clinton to meet on June 18

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein is scheduled to meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton in the third week of June for discussions on the Middle East peace process and Jordanian-American relations, informed sources said Wednesday.

The sources said the King was scheduled to leave for the U.S. around June 12 and will undergo routine medical check-ups at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, before heading for the meeting at the White House on June 18.

The sources, who preferred anonymity, noted that the King will be leaving Amman shortly after the wedding of his eldest son Prince Abdullah, which is scheduled to take place on June 10.

President George Bush met with King Hussein in Washington immediately after the King left Mayo Clinic following surgery in August 1992. That meeting was seen more of a reflection of the friendly relations between Mr. Bush and the King rather than an official invitation.

Bilateral relations have picked up in the past two years, with the U.S. unfreezing part of its financial assistance to Jordan and playing a key role in encouraging its allies to extend help to the Kingdom.

U.S. and Jordanian armed forces have staged at least two joint exercises in the past year, with the latest taking place last month, when General Joseph Hoar, commander of the U.S. Central Command, visited Jordan.

The administration is seeking to release \$50 million frozen funds for Jordan. Although the amount of American assistance to the Kingdom is not huge, Washington's approach to aid is a key factor in determining the attitude of its allies in Europe and elsewhere.

During his talks with President Clinton, the King expects to "have a clear picture of Washington is viewing the (Arab-Israeli) peace process and what plans it has to

## Arafat criticises Israel over Hamas

TEL AVIV (AP) — In a rare news conference with Israeli journalists, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has said the Jewish state helped create its own problems with Muslim hardliners in the occupied territories.

He accused Israel of building up Islamic movements to rival the more moderate Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), then doing an about face with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's expulsion last December of more than 400 Islamic activists.

"Rabin thought that by helping Hamas he could create competition for the PLO," the Jerusalem Post quoted Mr. Arafat as saying. "Instead, he created extremism. Now today he's made 400 deportees into heroes."

The expellees, supporters of the Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements, have been stranded in South Lebanon for the past five months.

Mr. Arafat spoke to reporters from Israeli dailies in the Austrian capital Vienna Monday night, and the interview was published Wednesday.

His accusation about Hamas echoes some Israeli reports, which note the group was founded before the Palestinian uprising began in 1987 but was not declared an illegal organisation for nearly two years.

The PLO leader also expressed frustration at the slow pace of the U.S.-backed peace process and suggested violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip would be reduced if the Israeli army withdrew from Arab towns and refugee camps.

Mr. Arafat accused the Israelis of playing a game in the peace talks.

He said, for example: "We asked for elections. They said we

King Hussein paid tribute to the present and former members of the services who, he said, started off with limited means and achieved a great deal.

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# Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MAY 20-21, 1993

## Mideast parties urged to reach out to each other

**WASHINGTON (UPI)** — The United States will continue to do everything it can to assist the parties to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, Secretary of State Warren Christopher says, but the parties themselves "need to see negotiations more as a process of give-and-take" in which they reach out to each other rather than remain mired in old positions.

Testifying before the House Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee Tuesday on the administration's fiscal 1994 foreign assistance budget request, Mr. Christopher was asked to assess progress in the ninth round of Middle East peace talks which adjourned last week.

"The key question remains with the Arabs, the Israelis and the Palestinians take advantage of the opportunities" the negotiations are affording them, the secretary said. "The results of the last three weeks have not definitely provided an answer," he said, although "the parties continue to engage each other seriously."

For the first time, he noted, the Israelis and the Palestinians formed working groups. The Israelis and the Lebanese exchanged papers on the issues before them and defined the negotiations. Serious talks continued in the Israeli-Jordanian track and the Israeli-Syrian negotiations also continued on a serious basis, Mr. Christopher said.

Papers "of a substantive character" have now been tabled by all sides for the first time, he pointed out.

The parties need to see negotiations more as a process of give-and-take, of engagements on terms that are designed to draw them closer together rather than to keep them mired in their traditional positions," the secretary said.

"They need to understand that negotiations here in Washington don't exist in a vacuum," Mr.

**Christopher continued.** "Reaching out to each other through public diplomacy, taking steps on the ground to reduce the possibilities of confrontation, and sending signals to their constituents about the importance of the negotiations — all those things are necessary to create a climate where serious work can be done."

He pointed out the Clinton administration has been willing "to play an active role in this process" and was instrumental in bringing the parties back to the table after a hiatus of several months.

"In fact, on the Palestinian track, which may be the most difficult of all the track, we put forward a paper designed not as a statement of U.S. policy but as an effort to capture the substantive progress that the two sides had made in the last three weeks," he said. "We think the process can work.... If the parties show significant and sufficient political will and creativity, we can help all three of them — the Israelis, the Arabs and the Palestinians — achieve the kind of real peace that their region has so long been denied."

Responding to questions, Mr. Christopher said the administration has requested foreign assistance aid levels for 1994 be continued at the current level "and not have it diminished in any way."

Asked how much of the \$3,000 million in American aid provided to Israel is spent in the United States each year, he said he was "quite sure it's more than half."

Benjamin Gilman, the ranking Republican on the committee, asked about reports the United States was planning to provide \$1,200 million in development assistance to the West Bank and Gaza and some form of aid to Syria and Jordan if a Middle East peace is achieved.

"They need to understand that negotiations here in Washington don't exist in a vacuum," Mr.

## Damascus declaration moves forward

**DUBAI (Agencies)** — A dormant cooperation accord between eight Gulf War Arab allies appears to have taken a first step to implementation in the economic field, diplomats said Wednesday.

But plans included in the agreement two years ago for forming a regional military force to include Egyptian and Syrian troops seem to have been shelved, an Arab diplomat said.

Economy and finance ministers of the eight states ended their first talks Tuesday night since the Damascus declaration on economic and military cooperation was signed in March 1991.

Officials said Syria and Egypt, which sent troops to the region during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, presented their oil-rich Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) partners at the meeting in Qatar with a number of development projects which need financing.

GCC Secretary-General Sheikh Fahim Ben Sultan Al Qasimi said after the meetings the Gulf Arab states were studying projects offered by Egypt and

Syria in the fields of water, energy and the sugar industry.

"The size of the investment has not been decided yet," the Qatari News Agency quoted Sheikh Fahim as saying.

The assistance programme is now in the stage of discussions among the GCC states to provide the necessary funds to finance these projects," he added.

The GCC, a military and economic alliance set up six months after the Iran-Iraq war broke out in September 1980, groups Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

Egypt and Syria originally hoped for direct government aid in return for deploying troops in the Gulf as the core of a regional defence force.

But diplomats said the Gulf Arab states were now only willing to invest in economically viable private sector projects in the two countries.

Sheikh Fahim, a UAE national, said it has been decided to leave the military part of the Damascus declaration for GCC

states to agree upon bilaterally with Egypt and Syria.

"The idea of an eight-nation force seems to be over. Any security arrangements will be on a bilateral level now," an Arab diplomat said.

Kuwaiti Finance Minister Nasir Abdulla Al Rodhan said the economic part of the accord consisted of six points including granting the private sector a preference to play a major role in economic and social development.

An Arab diplomat said Syria and Egypt had thought they would draw from a GCC fund to finance development projects. "They had to do their homework first and come up with specific projects. Egypt and Syria have done this in Doha," he added.

The GCC set up in December 1990 a fund with a \$10 billion ceiling to help mainly Arab allies. GCC states — mainly Kuwait, the UAE and Saudi Arabia — have made pledges of about \$6.5 billion to the fund which will finance the proposed Egyptian and Syrian projects.

## Veteran exiles find a transformed West Bank

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP)** — Writer Mahmoud Shuaib, back in Jerusalem after almost 20 years in exile, spent his first days hunting ghosts.

His quest in wandering the main Arab artery of Saladin Street was not the uncounted ancient specters that haunt the city, but memories from the years just before his 1975 expulsion.

Gone is the cafe where he and his fellow journalists used to scribble short stories in their spare time. Most of their newspapers have closed, and the old vendor is dead.

"Still I was happy to be there again, reliving all the details of my life before," he said.

The 30 veteran Palestinian activists, allowed back by Israel last month in an effort to spur peace talks, found landscapes radically altered.

It is not just the loss of old friends and old haunts. The entire political outlook of the West Bank has been sharply changed by the influx of Israeli settlers and the five-year-old intifada.

Hamas, the militant Islamic faction, did not even exist when they left.

"You find that every stone has a slogan on it," said Hanna Nasir, president of Bir Zeit University. He was 38 when the Israelis whisked him to Lebanon in the middle of the night on Nov. 21, 1974. He is 57 now.

Once the vanguard of the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) opposition to Israel's post-1967 occupation, most of the gray-haired returnees want to find a role among the young men running the uprising against Israel's occupation.

Political activist Azmi Shuaibi, one of the youngest exiles at 44, cast doubt on the PLO's ability to run the affairs in the occupied territories.

He said its military structure has not been able to cope with the day-to-day tasks of running the municipalities since 1988, when Jordan formally severed its legal and administrative links with the territories.

"After 1967, the PLO was constituted of soldiers and officers from various factions in military camps in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. After 1988, the PLO is still soldiers and officers in civilian clothes working in offices in Tunis and the occupied territories," Mr. Shuaibi said.

Most of its institutions face a severe financial crisis. Dr. Nasir has to replace the \$1 million raised in the Gulf each year that was the backbone of the university's finances. Palestinian support for Iraq in the Gulf war destroyed that source of funding. Plus the Israelis shut the activist campus for four years during the occupation.

Mr. Shuaibi, expelled just seven years ago, thinks the solution to the daunting problems is a new, more community-oriented political party.

Others want to focus more on the violence of the Israeli army that has left over 1,100 dead, including scores of children. The presence of 147 settlements housing over 100,000 Israelis came as a shock. There were barely 20 in the early 1970s.

The settlements are an awesome presence of the occupation.... It gives you a very, very sinking feeling that it is a much more difficult problem," said Dr. Nasir.

In Jerusalem itself, Ruhi Al Khafif is reasserting his claim to the title of mayor he says his 1968 expulsion did nothing to alter.

"When I left most of Jerusalem belonged to the Arabs, now most of it belongs to the Jews. Israel has done lots of activities to Judaize Jerusalem," he said.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### U.S. jeeps and trucks to Lebanese army

**BEIRUT (AP)** — The Lebanese army Wednesday received 300 jeeps and trucks donated by the United States to boost the 42,000-strong regular force. U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker, accompanied by Lebanese army officers, inspected the vehicles at Beirut port. Mr. Crocker told reporters the move was "a major step forward in the security assistance relationship between the United States and Lebanon." The vehicles, which had been part of the U.S. Army's reserves in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, were unloaded Tuesday. "There, they helped insure the peace in Europe. Now, in the hands of Lebanese armed forces in Lebanon, they can be used for the same purpose in Lebanon," Mr. Crocker said. He said the donation was "a concrete demonstration of American support for the government and army of Lebanon as they work to spread the authority of the state over all Lebanese territory." The United States announced in March it was resuming its military training programme for the Lebanese army, interrupted during the 1973-1990 civil war.

### Britain repeats demand on Libya

**CAIRO (AP)** — A British minister Wednesday repeated demands that Libya hand over two suspects indicted in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am plane over Lockerbie, Scotland. Douglas Hogg, minister of state for foreign affairs, said he discussed the Libyan issue with Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid. We want to see the government of Libya comply with the Security Council resolutions and that does mean that the two people who have been charged should be tried before a proper court, which means the court of Scotland," Mr. Hogg told reporters. He said he and Mr. Abdul Meguid reviewed "ways in which the government of Libya can be persuaded to deliver the two people for trial." He did not elaborate. The 21-member Arab League and individual Arab countries have been trying to mediate an end to the crisis.

### Detention of Bakhtiar suspect extended

**PARIS (R)** — A French judge said Tuesday he was extending for another year the pre-trial imprisonment of Zia Sarhadi, an Iranian charged with complicity in the 1991 murder of former Iranian Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar. Mr. Bakhtiar, Iran's last prime minister before the 1979 Islamic revolution, was stabbed to death along with his secretary at his home outside Paris on Aug. 6, 1991. Sarhadi, arrested outside the Iranian embassy in Berne in December 1991, is suspected of having played a part in plotting the murder and helping the killers to escape. Sarhadi was extradited from Switzerland last May 26. He is in jail awaiting trial, which has not been scheduled, and his one-year pre-trial detention term was due to end next week. French investigators say Sarhadi is the nephew of Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. The Iranian government says Sarhadi was an administrative employee at its Berne embassy and has denied allegations he played a role in Bakhtiar's death. French justice authorities are holding two other suspects in the case.

### Sweden appeals to Iraq to pardon jailed Swedes

**STOCKHOLM (R)** — Sweden urged Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein Tuesday to pardon three Swedish telephone engineers serving seven-year jail terms for illegally entering Iraq last September. But Foreign Minister Margaretha Af Ugglas said she had no intention of travelling to Baghdad in an effort to obtain the release of the Swedes. Ms. Ugglas, in a written reply to a question in parliament, said Sweden had spared no diplomatic effort to secure the liberation of Christer Strömberg, Leif Westberg and Stefan Whilborg. Ms. Ugglas said she had discussed the case with Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf at the United Nations in New York last year and had exchanged letters with him recently. Sweden maintains that the three men, working on a telephone contract in Kuwait for Telephone AB L M Ericsson, strayed by mistake over a poorly marked section of the border between Kuwait and Iraq on Sept. 3. Ms. Ugglas said she was appealing personally to President Saddam to exercise his right of pardon on humanitarian grounds.

### Diplomats injured in Sudanese embassy brawl

**BUCHAREST (AP)** — Two Sudanese diplomats were injured Tuesday after a group of their countrymen started a fight in their embassy and set it on fire, officials and witnesses said. The two-story building, located on a quiet street in central Bucharest, suffered minor damage and most of its windows were shattered before firefighters put out the blaze. Police spokesman Dan Scrueri said the assailants' motives were not yet known and refused to comment on reports that several people were arrested.

Police sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said six club-wielding Sudanese citizens forced their way into the embassy around noon, attacked staff members and set a fire inside. Witnesses said they heard shouting from inside the building and saw the assailants burning the Sudanese flag and setting fire to two embassy cars. Embassy staff near the building appeared dazed and refused comment. Embassy official Salaheddin Ali Elfadil, 40, suffered head and other injuries after jumping out a first-floor window, said Tudor Popescu of Bucharest's emergency hospital. His colleague Idris Ismail Farrag Alla, 32, was admitted with arm injuries. Taha Hassan Mohammad, a 28-year-old medical student, was also briefly admitted with minor arm injuries, Mr. Popescu said. It was not clear whether he was involved in the attack. Foreign ministry officials said they believed the assailants were students, but Mr. Scrueri would not confirm this. Hundreds of Africans are studying in Romania, a legacy of the former communist regime's close ties with many African countries.

### S. Africa names new Israeli ambassador

**PRETORIA (AFP)** — The South African government announced Tuesday its new ambassador to Israel would be Malcolm Ferguson, who last served abroad as a senior diplomat at the South African embassy in Washington. Mr. Ferguson replaces Johan Lotter as ambassador to Israel, the Foreign Affairs Ministry said in a statement. Inform sources said the appointment of Mr. Ferguson is currently head of the North Africa and Middle East desk of the foreign affairs department, would bring more of a balance to South Africa's relations with countries in the region. Mr. Ferguson was likely to try to preserve Pretoria's warm links with Israel while recognising the need for better relations with Arab countries. The African National Congress, which is likely to come to power after elections next year, is a longtime ally of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

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- Babiche, Tel. 661322
- Romero Restaurant, Tel. 644227
- Philadelphia Hotel, Tel. 663100
- Goethe Institut, Tel. 641993
- The National Music Conservatory, Tel. 667620

Min/max. temp.

Amman ..... 14 / 28

Aqaba ..... 22 / 36

Jordan Valley ..... 12 / 31

19 / 34

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 34 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweileh

Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel.

627857

St. Joseph Church Tel. 62490

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrassania Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 626543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.

626261

St. Epiphany Church Tel. 771751



## Jordan Times

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## Road to backfire

AT A time when the Kuwait government is ruling out any normalisation of relations with Iraq as long as Saddam Hussein remains in power, the speaker of the Kuwaiti parliament, Ahmad Al Saadoun, is sending clear signals to the current Iranian regime that it seeks more than friendly relations with Tehran. Kuwaiti Information Minister Sheikh Sami Nasser Al Sabah said this stance stems from the belief that the Iraqi president "is a menace, a threat, not just to Kuwait but to all the Gulf countries."

Saadoun, a long-time rival of the Sabah regime, also ruled out any contacts with Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Sudan and Yemen. Kuwait's overtures to Iran have coincided with the start of a Gulf tour by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, who will also be going to Kuwait next week. By clearly staking out a claim to better relations with Iran and at the same time abandoning any hope of restoring normal relations with sister Arab states, Kuwait sounds profoundly confused about what its priorities should be.

But while it is perfectly understandable for Kuwait not to easily forgive and forget Iraq's invasion and occupation in 1990, the Sabah regime has nonetheless to be wary of pinning hopes on non-Arab countries for protecting its state and safeguarding its legitimate concerns. Kuwait is an Arab state and will remain so no matter how much its leaders have depended or continue to depend on foreign powers for its security. The language of relying on foreign governments to defend any country is one that belongs to the colonial era when imperialist powers concocted all sorts of excuses and even fabricated armed conflicts for the sole reason of justifying the continuation of their hegemony.

Last week, we heard that Kuwait is thinking in terms of constructing ditches on its northern border to protect itself from Iraq. Now we hear that Kuwait looks to Iran for implicit protection. This is over and above the formal security arrangements Kuwait has concluded with several Western powers and the dispensation of billions of dollars on arms purchases that stand to prop up the slackening Western economies. We believe that Kuwait's long range interest and security lies squarely in a dramatically improved Arab climate. For Kuwait to shun every sincere effort to restore fraternal relations in the Arab World is a mistake that could easily backfire.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR bitterly criticised the U.S. administration, expressing regret over its continued bias towards Israel during and before the ninth round of the Arab-Israeli negotiations. Although we realise the deep relationship binding the U.S. and Israel, we expect the Clinton administration to show fair dealing during the peace talks so as to enable the two sides to achieve some progress, said the paper. A... re... space, continued the daily, the U.S. ought to have played a larger role and should have dissipated lingering suspicions about its intentions. We had hoped to see Washington playing the role of full partner, as it had promised see Washington playing the role of full partner, as it had promised us, in order to end the conflict, added the paper. Now that we have discovered the truth about the U.S. and its deceptions, we can no longer trust any U.S. pledges about peace in the future, stressed the paper. Neither can we feel optimism over any U.S. role in the future sessions in light of Washington's continued bias and lack of integrity and honesty in dealings with the Arabs and the Israelis, added the paper. Washington's conspiracy to try to peddle what it called its own principles for an Israeli-Palestinian plan of action should open our eyes wide, warned the paper. It said the Arabs ought to reappraise their attitude towards the U.S. under the Clinton administration because it is showing more bias towards Israel than any of those displayed by the previous administrations.

A COLUMNIST in Sawt Al Shaab daily lauded the government's decision to collect unlicensed weapons, noting that the step was necessary to ensure security for the public. Salameh Ekour said Jordanian citizens welcomed the collection of fire arms because this will provide more security for their children and families, enhance stability and prevent accidents that have been causing tragedies. The government realises that some political organisations possess firearms, but it hopes that these too will be collected and leave the matter of ensuring security to the police, said the writer. It is our right to demand that the government ensure security and safety for everyone and the only way to help it to do that is through handing over firearms and ridding the country of the means that create tragedies, the writer continued. He said that it is also the right of the government to expect cooperation on the part of the people and various political groups so that it can offer a guaranteed service to the public. The proliferation of unlicensed firearms in any society constitutes a source of danger to its members and can shake its security, the writer added. He demanded that the government impose strict penalties on those elements who defy the law and continue to endanger the Jordanian society.

## In power 40 years, King Hussein strives for a democratic Jordan

The monarch has placated his political opponents through inclusion

The following article by Sami Atiyeh appeared in the Christian Science Monitor issue of May 4, 1993, under the same headline.

AT THE 40th anniversary of his rule, King Hussein of Jordan is building the foundations of a modern Arab society and attempting to unite a traditional Islamic identity with democratic freedoms.

If successful, Jordan's experiment could prove a model of stability for the Arab World at a time of rising Islamic activism and popular discontent with economic decline and government corruption throughout the region.

But the longest-reigning Arab leader acknowledges publicly that time is short. He hopes to build a democratic system that would survive threats from anti-reformists long after his rule.

"King Hussein is racing with time to building democratic and civil institutions to turn Jordan into a modern state," says Munis Razzaz, head of the newly formed leftist Jordanian Arab Democratic Party (JADP). "And if there are threats to the democracy in the future, there will be safety valves to protect it."

Those safety valves — written into Jordan's National Charter since riots in 1989 prompted a process of democratisation — include legalised freedoms of expression and press, free elections and popular participation in government, and legalised opposition parties and labour unions.

Jordan celebrated the 40th anniversary of King Hussein's assumption of constitutional powers May 2 with a colourful, two-hour military parade. Large banners in the background read: "Forty years with Hussein on the road to freedom, democracy, and development."

King Hussein was only 18 when he inherited the Hashemite throne that his father, King Talal, abdicated for medical reasons. The young Hussein also inherited a country lacking resources and surrounded by political turmoil. During the past four decades,

King Hussein has survived several assassination attempts and aborted coups. After his regime was threatened by leftists in 1957, he cracked down on and banned all political parties, with the exception of the Muslim Brotherhood, a moderate Islamic political party. He strengthened his security apparatus to protect the throats and politically neutralised them by banning them from political activity.

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When the April 1989 riots broke out in the south of the country, protesting economic and political conditions, King Hussein announced free parliamentary elections in November of that year. The Muslim Brotherhood

won the largest single bloc, and now more than 12 political parties have been licensed ahead of parliamentary elections due in November.

The King's democratisation policy, political analysts say, has contained his one-time communist and leftist enemies, as well as the potential rise of Muslim extremism.

The Muslim Brotherhood has been included in the three governments formed since the 1989 elections, averting the kind of confrontations seen in Egypt and Algeria.

"We can ignore neither the Muslim Brotherhood nor others and they all have to be included in the political system of the country," says Ibrahim Izzidine, minister of prime ministerial affairs.

Besides winning over the Jordanian left and right, King Hussein has also succeeded in mustering support from the large Palestinian population in the Kingdom. Since his administrative and legal disengagement from the West Bank in 1988, which was under Jordanian rule when Israel occupied it in 1967, King Hussein has insisted that Jordan would support any decisions taken by the Palestine Liberation Organisation, especially

regarding the Middle East peace talks.

And unlike other Arab countries, Palestinians in Jordan, most of whom carry Jordanian citizenship, have enjoyed the same rights as native Jordanians. King Hussein's popularity at home has spread to other Arab states. On the eve of the anniversary celebrations, he attended a concert where a famous Tunisian singer, Sadiq Sadeq, sang the words of a prominent Iraqi poet, Mohammad Jawaheri, composed and conducted by Egyptian Jamil Salameh. The song was written especially for the King.

Mr. Razzaz, the JADP leader, says King Hussein believes he has a "Hashemite mission towards achieving a European-style Arab unity through democracy, pluralism, and respect for human rights..."

"He hopes to become a symbol in the Arab World by building a democratic model in Jordan," Mr. Razzaz says.

"I don't have any doubts that democracy is a national trend that is fully supported by Prince Hassan," Mr. Izzidine says of King Hussein's brother, the heir apparent. "But it is difficult to replace such a great leader as King Hussein."

## LETTERS

### Cardinal points

To the Editor:

Rami Khouri's recent remarks concerning his fear of standing up to western cultural imperialism paint a bleak, black and white scenario ("Techno-racism and the onion ring machines," Jordan Times, May 11, 1993). Were it so simple!

The "new world order" is a catch phrase that may contain a lot of rhetoric and wishful thinking from many different segments of many societies. Everyone has a right to their own opinion, especially in a democracy.

Perhaps a manifestation of that "new world order" is the process of democratisation that recently has been introduced to Jordan. Certainly the meaning of democracy will truly be tested here when writers such as Mr. Khouri will be encouraged to criticise their own society's faults (if there are any) as well as others'.

It helps to look on the bright side ... If it weren't for western imperialism, the Hashemite Kingdom might not have been located in Jordan. Please, do not feel bad about this. One has only to remember that once upon a time even the United States was a colony of Great Britain.

Concerning imperialism in general, historically, there has been plenty of that to go around from various regimes of the North, South, East and West. Jordan, for example, takes pride in its imperial Roman ruins.

If you wonder about the preservation of western comfort, all you have to do is look a little south and wonder about "retaining incumbrance, wielding power and feeling good." At least Pakistan now has troops in Somalia. It is too bad that was not an Arab initiated endeavour instead of an American one. Perhaps the people of the "southeast" lost their vision on that one. And I do not see unilateral military commitments from Arab countries in Bosnia either. Perhaps it is time.

I hope that a word processing computer was not the vehicle for Mr. Khouri's copyrighted mental meanderings. That would appear somewhat hypocritical. (I also hope his western style copyright is more effective here than the copyright of western music and entertainment products. But it is nice to see Mr. Khouri likes at least one western idea).

One question: What is an onion ring machine? I have never seen or heard of one. By the way, we enjoy shish kebabs as well as onion rings in America. Certainly falafel sandwiches cannot be far behind. I hope so, they are delicious!

Kevin A. Hluch,  
Visiting Lecturer,  
Yarmouk University,  
Irbid.

## The need to know more

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the staff of the Jordan Times for their efforts in producing such a good newspaper.

I would also like to make a suggestion, as a Jordanian and as a member of the "Friends of Archaeology" in Amman,

In time I have come to know quite a lot about this beautiful country of ours and to the realisation of its great history.

It is nice to know that people are being more and more aware of the importance of archaeological excavations and their amazing findings, which tell us more and more of our history.

What I would like to suggest is for the Jordan Times to have, every now and then, articles on archaeological researches, with figures, facts and photographs presented in such a way that everybody can understand. That is what I mean articles written by people who are not familiar with archaeological terms, who could make people interested and more aware of what's going on. It non-Jordanians, talk to those interested, through the newspaper.

It would also be interesting to have articles about places in the country which do not necessarily have archaeological significance, but are not very well known to the public and could be a great place to spend a Friday.

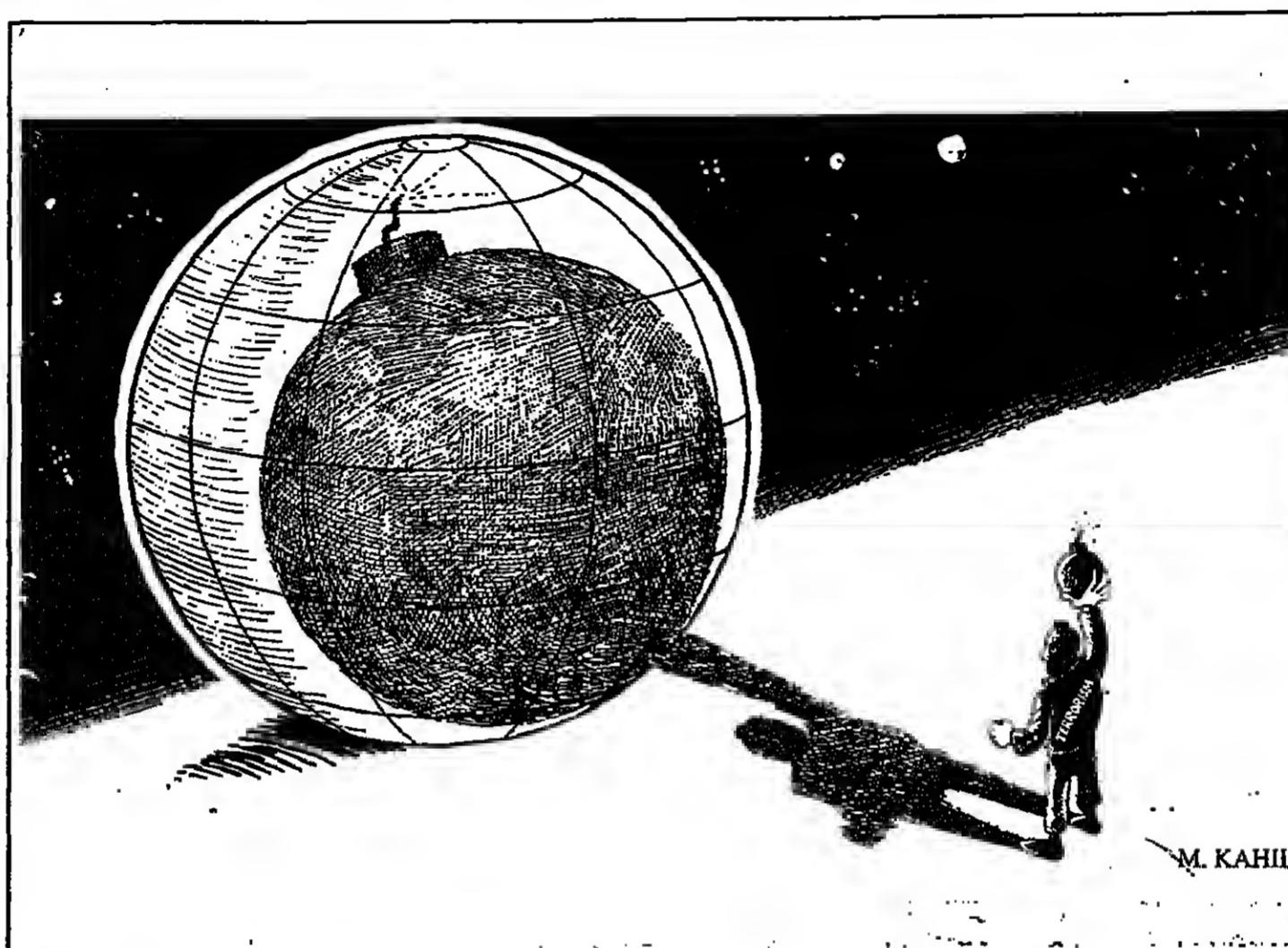
I mean sites like Umm Al Jimal, Dana, the desert castles, Azraq, Umm Qais and many others.

I read the Jordan Times articles about Dana and I enjoyed it very much. Now Dana is a familiar name to people because it was talked about on television, and there were articles about it in several papers. Now Dana has the "Friends of Dana" which I think is a great idea.

We have a beautiful country. Its people need to enjoy its beauty and preserve it so that the coming generations learn to appreciate it as well.

Rana Sami Naber,  
P.O. Box 830746,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and request and address as well. Names can be withheld only upon editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



## The case for democracy — a special one when it comes to Saudi Arabia

### Fundamental difficulties

By Kathy Evans

IN WESTERN eyes, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia appears the most repressive and closed country on earth. Its doors are literally bolted not just to journalists but single foreign women, Jews, Palestinians and any people or influences which might jar the 7th century concepts which form the basis of its laws. Germaine Greer once called it the Nazi kingdom of male chauvinism.

The closed doors and the social laws are deemed necessary, for as the motherland of Islam, Saudi Arabia has a unique responsibility towards the Muslim World. This is a country whose very soil is considered sacred. To a billion Muslims, Saudi Arabia sets the religious standard and the state's Islamic credentials were — and had to be — beyond reproach.

It is a responsibility recognised by even the most liberal, whisky-drinking Saudis. They know that the deal — and Islamic law — is that to breathe freely, you stay in the confines of your own home — or leave the country.

Yet last week, the guardians of Islam, the keepers of the two holy cities, found themselves being stalked by the same phenomena which threatens many other governments in the Middle East, the spectre of Islamic radicalism.

The siren call comes from a scruffy rural town called Qasim, in the heartland of the Nejd Desert. Qasim has become the centre for opposition clergymen who have descended out of nowhere to be met by millions of supporters, the preachers of Saudi Arabia are unknown in the West, but their names are familiar to all Saudis. They include young radicals like Sheikh Salman Odeh, who is just in his thirties, Awad Al Gani who comes from the poor southern province of Asir, and Zafar Hawali, a young preacher in Medina. Their message is relayed on audio cassettes sold in shops in every town in Saudi Arabia.

No pictures of these men exist — photographs are highly unusual. Nor has any westerner met them — such men consider contact with infidel foreigners contaminating and defiling. Instead, their friends are in such places as Sudan, or among the militants of Egypt's Gamma Islam, and the wild fanatics of Afghanistan.

Last week, some of their fellow clerics, known for their "moderate" views, set up the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights. The first group to be formed in the country, it covers a broad spectrum of ideas, but they talked of human rights, democracy, the right of men — and women — to vote, of the need to end corruption in the royal family, and the strong ties with America. It was an agenda with which even westerners and Saudi liberals in the country could identify.

Saudi women remained unimpressed. After all, there is not much point in having the vote if you can't leave the house or have a normal job.

These new radical products are pouring forth in their tens of thousands each year from the

Arab World, King Fahd, like Saudi monarchs before him, is viewed as America's man, doing America's business in the Middle East. That business includes funding anti-socialist religious movements, suppressing democracy and pushing reluctant Arabs into a peace process which offers nothing but further humiliation.

The reaction from such policies doesn't bother the regime much because in the end Arab regimes remain preoccupied in selling military aircraft or arms salesmen who come to do business with the kingdom. The Saudis, after all, are the last big spenders in the recession.

At home, all say the Saudis must clean up their royal act. This is the country where princely commissions run into billions of dollars, corrupting not just the young princes but any western businessman, government official or arms salesman who comes to do business with the kingdom.

The king's indulgence towards his sons has angered the business community in the western province, Hijaz. Discontent is also rife among the generation of young educated Saudis who see little prospect in rising through the ranks of government. Hundreds of Al Saudis are sprinkled throughout the administration blocking their way to promotion.

For decades, the monarchs of Saudi Arabia have mistaken the liberals as their enemy. Today those liberals are now viewed by the religious groups as pillars of support for the house of Saud, and liberals fear that any weakening of the monarchy could pave the way for a clerical government the like of which has never been seen before.

Such attitudes left western diplomats scrambling in 1979 to get to know the unknown bearded mullahs in Iran who came out of nowhere. The Americans have already shown them that lesson and have opened contacts with the more palatable representatives of the Saudi radicals. Foreign Office officials meanwhile fear that such contacts would send the wrong signals to the house of Saudi.

King Fahd has consequently been allowed, without comment by the West, to drag his feet on the long promised consultative assembly and the window of opportunity has now opened for the radicals. The Saudis have yet to learn the lesson understood by King Hussein of Jordan: That the only way to dilute their underground street power is a good dose of democracy — The Guardian.

Democracy — even the little bit promised by a long-awaited consultative council — subsequently looks dangerous to the liberals. A consultative council

# Weekender

May 20, 1993

Published Every Thursday

## Arab intellectuals' apathy: Moral blindness or schizophrenia?

Martin Woollacott

*The -Guardian*  
When we try to cope in our minds with the wars that have broken out in the last few years, we perform, usually unconsciously, an act of triangulation. We measure them by reference to three great markers — the fratricide of World War I, the genocide of World War II and the suicide a nuclear World War III would have constituted.

It is a comparison which normally reassures. After all, nothing has been remotely as bad or on as huge a scale as those conflicts, two burned into our memory and one burned into our imagination. Only the Iran-Iraq war, which may have approached the levels of slaughter of 1914-18, seems an exception. What is going on in Yugoslavia now, for instance, while dreadful, is not genocide. Ethnic cleansing is not genocide: The intention is to move the unwanted people, not to murder them, and even though some murders are part of the terror that provokes flight, they are a means, not an end. It is possible to end up with the conclusion: that while human beings are still evil bastards, they are not quite as evil as they used to be.

But there is an argument that, despite the fact that we have avoided nuclear war and true genocide in recent years, things are getting worse. It is worth weighing. Such thoughts come to mind, for instance, after reading Kanan Makiya's book on the growth of "moral" blindness in the Arab World. Makiya, previously writing under the pseudonym Samir Al Khalil, wrote an exposé of Saddam Hussein's Iraq called *Republic Of Fear*, and his new title, *Cruelty And Silence*, is as harshly accurate as his first. In this second book he examines such refinements of evil by the Iraqi regime as the political use of rape and the dishonouring of women, as well as the development of its Kurdish policy from one of coercive resettlement to the near complete destruction of Kurdish rural society.

That is the cruelty. The silence is not that of Iraqis in Iraq, which is understandable. It is that of Arab intel-

lectuals in other, safer, societies who, instead of recognising that their first duty was to condemn what was happening in Iraq, mainly chose instead to offer convoluted and abstract arguments about Saddam's "meaning" in Arab history. Although *Cruelty And Silence* is a passionate sketch rather than a systematic study, it suggests persuasively that there is a connection between the decline in personal moral standards, particularly those of intellectuals, and the increasingly vicious use of force by some governments, a use that does begin to lead us back towards genocide.

Why cannot most Arab intellectuals see that Saddam's treatment of the Kurds, for instance, was and is a grave crime? Why has Makiya been accused by some Iraqi Shites of neglecting their cause because he took up that of the Kurds? Why cannot Palestinians see any parallel between their case and that of the Kurds of Iraq, or even, which is true, that in some ways the Kurds have been treated worse than they have? We could pursue this Middle Eastern chain further than Makiya does. Why can-

not the Kurds, of Turkey or elsewhere, instead of recognising that their first duty was to condemn what was happening in Iraq, mainly chose instead to offer convoluted and abstract arguments about Saddam's "meaning" in Arab history. Although *Cruelty And Silence* is a passionate sketch rather than a systematic study, it suggests persuasively that there is a connection between the decline in personal moral standards, particularly those of intellectuals, and the increasingly vicious use of force by some governments, a use that does begin to lead us back towards genocide.

Arlen uses an oddly similar phrase to Makiya in describing the killing of the Armenians: "What loneliness and silence". We face here a strange phenomenon, the not infrequent refusal of the victim to acknowledge the fact that there are other victims, and that he and they belong in a community of victims.

At bottom, it means that the victimised come to share the philosophy of the oppressor, which is that, among the peoples, there are winners and losers and that the key

thing is not justice but survival — the survival of the fittest. Thus the objective of an oppressed people comes to be to join the winners rather than to be permanently relegated to the ranks of the losers. This Darwinian view certainly underlies some Arab attitudes, and helps explain why, across the Arab World, Saddam was elevated into a hero whose brutality was to be redeemed by his success.

In the Balkans now can be seen a terrible tangle of these victim complexes. The Serbs, the Croats and the Muslims all picture themselves as victims; and in their concentration on their own victimhood can recognise no parallel between their case and that of the others. They all have some, if not equal, reason for doing so.

Both Serbs and Croats see themselves as having almost lost their place in modern Europe by a combination of ill luck and the ill will of others. Dobrica Cosic, the Yugoslav president, for instance, genuinely believes that in peril of its life. It will be penetrated by foreign capital, overwhelmed by "international"

culture, and amputated by an unfair partition of the old Yugoslav state: 1,000 years of heroism could peter out into a marginal little appendage of Germanic Europe. Somehow this war is supposed to help avert that fate.

Much has been written about the victim culture in Western societies, particularly in the United States, as it applies to individuals and to groups. But it exists as a tendency in whole nations, too, and there is presumably some connection between the growth of this mentality in individuals and in peoples. Versions of the same culture can be identified in the Middle East and the former Communist Bloc and perhaps elsewhere in the world.

The causes are varied but the end result is the same: Being a victim, and striking out at one's enemies, becomes the principle around which individual, political, and even international life is organised.

When a people has genuinely suffered greatly, it is particularly dismaying that this is often a victimhood that recognises no one else's tragedies and sees no one else's tears. When they have

not, it is galling beyond belief to have some national mishap transformed into a great injustice and offered as an excuse for aggression against others.

We are too apt to label the conflicts that have surprised us recently as the result of "ancient hatreds" bursting out now that the repressive structures that used to contain them have been removed. It is more likely that under the surface in many societies a selfish and regressive development, that of the victim mentality, was under way. Beginning with an understandable preoccupation with power and the forms of oppression, it becomes reflex that justifies everything. If that is true, what we see now are new quarrels, even though they borrow their rhetoric from the past.

The sense of being a victim is so widespread now as to have begun to infect even old-established and secure nations. The best antidote is, as Makiya argues, the honesty of intellectuals. Misfortunes and disasters in national life ought to be coolly measured by such people and seen as part of the web of adversity that afflicts all of us to some extent, and which justice must try, in each generation, to untangle.

That triangulation by reference to the great conflicts no longer should reassure so completely. Anyone who has read the journals and letters of World War I combatants is aware of how full of pity most of them are, a pity that specifically includes the enemy.

The moral sensibility seen again and again in the recorded world of one ordinary serviceman of that time should give us pause today. We hear faint echoes of it in the puzzled comments of British soldiers in the hills round Tuzla, but one hesitates to think what would be in the daybook of the average Serbian or Croatian irregular.

We assumed that because we have never repeated the terrible sacrifices of the trenches or the terrible son of the Holocaust we have made moral progress, but unhappily it may not be so.

IT WAS a bit too late for the Diary's regular writer, Nermene Murad, to come back in time for this week's column. Her colleagues in the Jordan Times' editorial room thus took it upon themselves to fill her space for the 5th consecutive week (what a long working holiday for Nermene!). They naturally wanted to write about themselves and their colleagues. Forget about Nermene's favoured style of writing about public figures and seasoned politicians, they said. At their best, they produced the following:

**SECURITY 'THREAT' NO LONGER 'THREATENING'** It could have happened due to coincidence rather than design, but it happened anyway. P.V. Vivekanand, chief sub-editor and staff reporter of the Jordan Times, who on the week before last that the Jordan Times had protested to the Royal Court over the ban imposed by the security authorities on Vivekanand attending the May 2 celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of constitutional powers, bounced back to attend a luncheon in honour of... well, the King, but without a hitch this time. The Diary reported the week before last that the Jordan Times had protested to the Royal Court over the ban imposed by the security authorities on Vivekanand attending the May 2 celebrations. Although the Royal Court has not formally replied to the protest, explanations provided by other officials and sources ranged from "human error" to "genuine oversight" and "groundless" and "baffling." In any event, Anand, having put the sad episode behind him, utilised the new occasion to make news of it. He wrote a colourful story on how His Majesty was received by his hosts, the Advani tribes of the Jordan Valley. True, he failed to mention (whether by design or coincidence) the fact that while some of the tribesmen rode horses in the ceremonial welcome extended to the Monarch, scores of others came in their gleaming top-of-the-line Mercedes-Benz cars and asked for financial support to assist them in running their farms in the Jordan Valley. But Anand, the clever journalist, did not let that failure stop him from pursuing his kind of investigative reporting. He tells us that the lunch cost some JD \$10,000, a piece of news obtained by no other journalist.

★ ★ ★

**JOURNALISTS OR IDEOLOGUES?** In Jordan, it's hard to tell. A widespread phenomenon here is that of journalists who cover press conferences only to listen to fellow journalists reply to questions. At a press conference held recently by the Muslim Brotherhood parliamentary bloc, a Jordan Times female reporter stood up to ask just which party the Brotherhood believed to represent the Palestinian people "since as the Brotherhood argued" the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) evidently didn't. Shortly after the gentlemen on the podium started to volunteer some answers, a local journalist cut in with his own statement to "clarify" the Brotherhood's position. At the same press conference another "journalist" offered a long discourse on the peace process and the PLO and other related issues as if he was not already shoving his opinions down the people's throat on daily basis in his daily column. At another recent gathering of the press, as it might be called by now, a reporter for a new weekly asked Nayef Hawatmeh, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), a long and incomprehensible question that ended with the following words: "The so-called land of Palestine." A journalist in attendance, who is notorious for mixing up press freedoms and jingoism, could not swallow it. "I object to the term of 'so-called land of Palestine,'" he shouted and rambled. "Palestine is there and will always remain Palestine." Even Hawatmeh appeared to have been taken aback by the outburst, and he tried to calm him, but there was no way he could outbid our overzealous "journalist."

★ ★ ★

**'MATCH-MAKERS EYE J.T. REPORTERS'** One would have thought that there is no scarcity of girls eligible for marriage in this country. But not so for two dear old ladies who walked into the newspaper offices the other day, ostensibly to place an advertisement. As it turned out, their real mission was to "view" two female reporters and to inquire about their family backgrounds, and maybe even their life histories. So flattered was at least one of the two reporters that she nearly forgot about problems she faced in connecting with other sources. The reporter, who is said to be responsible for making a government official lose his job after she published a newspaper interview with him which upset his superiors, has been ostracised by public officials who keep the "door" closed to her inquisitive ways. If things do not change for her soon, i.e. if the officials do not stop thinking she is that "dangerous," she might have to end up taking the ladies on their proposition, something she does not seem at all eager to do so far.

★ ★ ★

**BIG NEWS, DELAYED EFFECTS:** It will have escaped the notice of a few readers that since the beginning of May, the Jordan Times has expanded into a 10-page newspaper. The editor is naturally proud of the achievement, but has probably been too modest to announce it formally. The last we heard from his office is that he has in fact been working on some form of an announcement which, it is rumoured, will be made soon, along with an informed advice on how best to read and enjoy reading the "new-look, bigger" newspaper. Because the Diary generally likes and does scoop everybody else in our business, including the Jordan Times' chief editor, we have to give you a glimpse of what he is likely to say in his impending "notice to our readers." It will go like this, we bet: "A 10-page newspaper is not such a big achievement. After all, our sister Arabic daily cannot be carried around anymore because of its huge number of pages. Nevertheless, the expansion is healthy and a step forward, considering the financial and logistical constraints facing us as a small, foreign language newspaper. We have not previously announced the expansion due to the fact that, since the beginning of May, we have been only experimenting with the lay-out and arrangement of the pages. Now, however, we know what we want, and we are pleased to tell you about it. The front page, according to the new arrangement, gets a back-up page to carry more up-to-date news and photos. The back page will also accommodate jumps (continuations) from page 1, which will make it easier for readers to find them. There will be two economy pages, instead of one, and bigger pages for sports and features. The other reason for delaying this announcement is the delay that has only now become evident in receiving a new computer system, which would give our paper not only a new look but also a new lease on life. That system is definitely coming, we are told by the financial moguls of Al Ra'i Foundation, which owns us. When, is the question that has yet to be answered. By the way, dear readers, we have found you a third reason why the editor was reluctant to come out in the open with the good news of the expansion. Today's issue will have only 8 regular pages, not the 10 we've promised, simply because our printing press cannot cope with 14 pages. The maximum number the old lady could handle in time for us to make it on your breakfast table is 12 pages — 8 regular and 4 Weekend. Good reading to all."



## Gulf between the Arabian knights

**Modern Arabic Literature**  
Ed. M. M. Badawi

Cambridge University Press £75

WITH THE publication of this volume, a monumental academic project is completed. The four tomes of the Cambridge History of Arabic Literature began in 1983 with a volume on pre-Islamic and early Islamic literature up to the middle of the eighth century, and is rounded off by the new one. The series places Arabic literature, for the first time in English, on a par with other world literatures, for which "guides", "companions" and other reference works are in ample supply.

The scope suggested by the title of the current volume is enormous in more than one way. Modern means not only the whole of the 20th century but also the beginnings of modernity to the middle of the 19th. Arabic, on the other hand, denotes the language of the geographic area extending from Morocco on the Atlantic Ocean to Iraq and the Gulf states in the east, while literature includes all the known literary genres: poetry, the novel, the short story, drama, the essay, with special chapters devoted to literary criticism, Arab women writers and verse composed in the many Arabic vernaculars. To each of these genres anything between one and three extended essays are devoted. Contributions are made by a variety of academics based on both sides of the Atlantic as well as the Middle East.

The book begins with a four-page chronology of the historical events that form the broad background to the "modern" period. The first two dates listed are 1787 and 1798, which mark, respectively, the death of Mohammad Ibn Abdul Wahhab, founder of the Wahhabi movement in Arabia, and the arrival of Bonaparte's campaign in Egypt. The symbolic power of these two events is inestimable. Wahhabism is a fundamentalist Islamic movement which until today has had tight control over the daily manifestations of social and cultural life in Saudi Arabia (it was partly through a historical alliance with the Wahhabis that the Saudi dynasty eventually gained control of Arabia earlier this century and since that time has allowed them to run society according to their terms, excepting politics). Wahhabism, which has not been influential outside Arabia, epitomises the ultra-conservative, traditionalist, anti-modernist forces which have always resisted the movement of Arab societies towards secularism and modernisation.

Bonaparte's expedition represents the first dramatic

encounter with Western modernity, an encounter which shook a cocooned and complacent medieval culture into the disconcerting realisation of the existence of a superior and more powerful "other". From that moment on things were never the same again, and although in this instance the French physically left within three years, the impact they made stayed. In addition it was only a matter of time before the entire Arab World fell victim to one European colonial power or another. A love-hate relationship between the Arab intelligentsia and the European model eventually established itself: the natural antagonism towards foreign occupation coupled with a fascination with the culture and technology behind it. There was a fairly early realisation that to emulate the West was also the way to rebuff it.

But the powers of tradition and conservatism have proven recalcitrant throughout. There has always been the argument that to adopt the values and lifestyle of the West was the shortest path to Hell, that a return to the fundamentals of the Arabo-Islamic culture was the only way out of the Arabs' current historical impasse — a call which has gathered fearful momentum during the last decade or so. It is against this constant tug-of-war between the forces of tradition and those of modernisation that Arab social and cultural life has evolved since the last century. Whereas politically, economically and socially the modernisation process has yet a long way to go in its battle with traditionalism (how long depends on which Arab country), insofar as literature is concerned, there is no doubt, as the current volume shows, that its triumph has been complete. Today, even in the politically and socially most conservative of Arab societies, the literature owes both its sensibility and artistic mould largely to modern Western origins.

The history of modern Arab letters is indeed proof that there is no such thing as indigenous purity in culture any more than in race. Fundamentally different as Arabic and European languages are, out of the intercourse between them were born whole new genres in Arabic. It has been argued that the first translations of the Arabian Nights into French and English early in the 18th century was influential in the development of the then young genre of the novel. Two centuries later, the Arabs were to claim back their debt. Rather than hark back to traditional narrative modes (largely episodic in structure) of their native literature, they were fascinated by the complex and versatile form of the European novel which they came to know either in the original or through an ever-growing translation movement.

Within 50 years or so, Arab novelists were able to rush at a feverish pace through evolutionary stages that took their European mentors centuries to pass through. Today their work is increasingly translated and read all over the world and their efforts were accorded the international recognition they deserved when Naguib Mahfouz, Egypt's foremost novelist, was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1988.

What goes for fiction goes also for drama. Although simple native dramatic forms have existed in some Arab countries for centuries, it was under the influence of Molière, and after a visit to Italy where he experienced Italian theatre and opera, that the Syrian Marun Naqqash produced in 1847, in his own house in Beirut, what has come to be accepted as the first Arab play. From those humble beginnings, the Arab theatre was later to gain momentum in Egypt and eventually achieve maturity at the hands of Tawfiq Al Hakim and other playwrights. Hakim in particular displayed an amazing technical versatility and cross-cultural mobility taking his themes and plot skeletons from Greek and Ancient Egyptian mythology, and from both the Bible and the Koran, while addressing a modern philosophic or social issue.

Even poetry, an art form that the Arabs had perfected as far back as the sixth century before the emergence of Islam and had brought to a high degree of sophistication during the heyday of Islamic civilisation, was not to escape the all-engulfing Western-inspired spirit of modernisation. After attempts at reviving classical models late last century and during the first three decades of this one, it was first the influence of European romanticism and then of T.S. Eliot and the French symbolists that was to shape the sensibility and technique of the modern Arab poet.

But what have Arab writers done with all these vehicles of expression that they have borrowed from the West? The only brief answer possible is that they have made them their own. As they gained in self-confidence, they adapted them to their needs and grafted onto them new qualities, either dictated by their own artistic temperament, or by an experimental desire to blend them with corresponding indigenous forms. But whatever they did with form and technique, Arab writers remained committed to the vital political and social issues of their societies, issues emanating principally from the gulf between tradition and modernity that has yet to be crossed, political repression and economic hardship at home, and the historical conflict with the "other" represented by Israel and the West — The Independent.

Rasheed El Enany

## Dreaming of the future

By Jean-Claude Elias

At a conference given earlier last year in Amman, an official from British IBM declared: "Information technology is in its infancy...the computer industry still has a lot to show to the world, ...the best is yet to come..."

For most of the computer specialists in the audience, who are usually proud of their machines and like to brag about their impressive characteristics, the statement was a bit of a shock. All those megabytes, megahertz, nanoseconds and flashy figures would be nothing?

If it is true that raw figures tend to impress the user and help manufacturers sell their products, one should step back and think. Does the user need the figures in a computer's specification or the work that the machine can do? Even if we know it, we still tend to forget it sometimes.

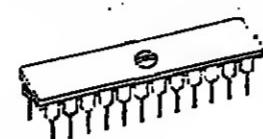
Currently, a typical personal computer's (PC) memory can hold four million characters. A human being's brain is estimated to hold billions and billions of cells. Which is more impressive? Consequently, even if we go by the "figure games", computers are not more impressive than human beings. But, as we said, figures are not everything.

If we forget about the PCs that are available to us today and start dreaming of an ideal, absolute computer, what would we like it to be able to do? First of all it must be "fault tolerant" at both the hardware and the software levels. It should be built, electrically speaking, to withstand power fluctuations, weaknesses and even interruptions. It should have automatic, built-in back up units. For instance if the hard disk fails, there should be another hard disk to immediately, automatically, take over, without the user's intervention. A warning would then be issued to inform the operator that a problem has occurred. In other words, the hardware should be extremely reliable. Much more than it is nowadays.

Software — the programmes — should allow the user to make minor mistakes without affecting the machine's performance. If for instance you are looking for the telephone number of your friend Layla and you type it as 'Leila', 'Laila' or even 'Layza' (assuming that there is no name stored in the PC as Layza), it should retrieve it without any problem or delay.

The most important aspect of the future PC is not even in the above mentioned features that are, after all, partially implemented on some of today's mainframe machines. It's

## chip talk



in the basic way we communicate with the PC and their broader compatibility and standardisation.

Word processing is fine, but one should be able to 'dictate' one's correspondence to the computer like to a Dictaphone, through a microphone, without the need for the keyboard's tedious input. Automatic, improved spelling and grammar checking as well as advanced translation from one language to another should be considered as normal features.

Storage of high resolution images and sound should become standard. Currently it is limited by the available disk storage. Sound and image take a lot of storage space and require very fast processors.

For those who work on multimedia applications, involving music and pictures, even the fastest 486 PC is not fast enough. Music, when professionally processed, takes 10 MB (ten million bytes or characters) for each recorded minute. A high resolution, digitised colour picture can take 20 to 50 million characters. A hard disk of 200 MB can therefore hold a maximum of four such pictures or twenty minutes of music. Forget about moving your family photo album or music cassettes to the computer's disk. Only the next generation of PCs will allow a friendly, powerful and affordable implementation of such ideas.

There are countless other applications that we do not even dare to dream of because we have a limited concept of what a computer can do for us. Who would have thought, only ten years ago, that a PC would allow us to send a digital fax, check the spelling of our writing, use CD-ROM laser disks, and print professionally published pages on laser printers at home or in the office?

The IBM guy was right, the PC still hasn't left its cradle.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuaqir

### CAPITALS

CAIRO

- Capital of Egypt and largest city in Africa.
- Population: Approx. 12,000,000.
- Al Fustat (Old Cairo) was founded by the Arabs c. A.D. 461; Cairo itself c. 1000 by the Fatimite ruler Jowhar Al Sikkily.
- Population consists of Arabs, Greeks, Copts and other minorities.
- On the right bank of the Nile, 120 miles southeast of Alexandria.
- Former cities are included in it, old walls, gateways, narrow streets, latticed houses, palaces and many mosques.
- The three gates of the city: Bab Al Nasr, Bab Al Futuh and Bab Zuweila are examples of Islamic architecture.
- The city was the administrative headquarters of the allied leaders during World War I.
- Parts of Cairo are still medieval.
- Most of the modern parts of the city consist of broad boulevards, with European-built villas, hotels, etc.
- Modern improvements include new bridges over the Nile, new motor roads and suburbs.
- Outstanding landmarks: Cairo Tower, the New Opera House, the Citadel, factories and museums.

### BELIEVE IT OR NOT

PORTLAND CITY, in the Oregon state, used to organise elections in which the students' opinions are taken into consideration whenever a teacher is appointed or dismissed.

★ ★ ★ ★

A CANADIAN WOMAN found a frog that has got eyes inside its mouth!

★ ★ ★ ★

INDOOR football matches are played between two teams of six bandaged-eye players.

★ ★ ★ ★

A CRICKET MATCH, supposed to be played between England and India on Feb. 16, 1980, was postponed due to a solar eclipse.

★ ★ ★ ★

AN AUSTRALIAN LADY went on ironing clothes for 89 hours and 32 minutes without stopping.

★ ★ ★ ★

A WEALTHY AMERICAN deposited \$400,000 to cover the expenses of clothing nude animals.

### HAPPY DREAMS

**Love:** Dreams of sincere love are a forecast of happiness and contentment through a healthy and intelligent adjustment to the conditions of life; but a dream of illicit love or sheer lust has a portent of disappointment or failure due to your own greed. To dream of observing the lovemaking of others predicts success in your current undertakings.

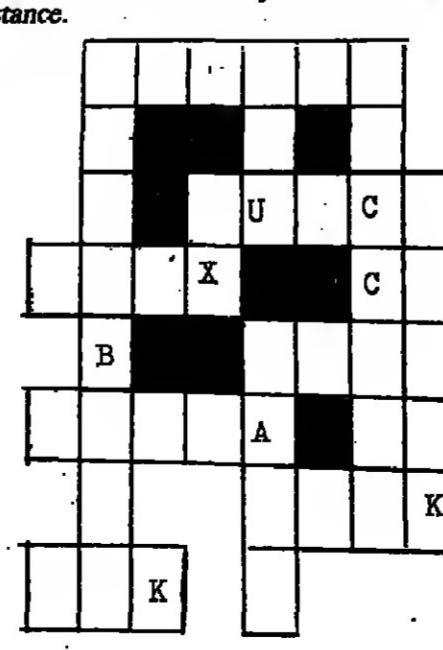
★ ★ ★ ★

**FLIRT:** An omen of social success if kept within the bounds of good taste, but if done with malicious intent, it signifies trouble brewing in domestic affairs.

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

#### OCEANS

- The four oceans are: The Atlantic, the Pacific, the Indian and the Arctic.
- Oceanography is the scientific study of the sea, sea currents, the rocks on the sea bed and the fish and animals that live in the sea.
- Some people refer to the sea as the ocean which can also be used figuratively for any very large or plentiful



(B) Do it in a minute  
What two whole numbers, neither containing any zeros, when multiplied together equal EXACTLY 1,000,000,000?

## The tea party

By E. Yaghi

Another day in the jungle and Mother Turtle had awakened early because she felt very excited about a tea party she was planning to have. "Let me see," she said to the green jungle plants as she basked on a log in the sun, "I'll invite the orange lion, the yellow baboons, the silver fox and I'll even ask the blue nightingale to come and sing for she has the most beautiful voice of all the birds. I'll just have to try my new recipe again for my special tea since it's been successful on other occasions. As I am getting older and am sure to have a bit of trouble getting things ready, I shall see if some of the animals can help me for my intention is mainly to bring the creatures of the jungle together for a day of fun!"

So after she warmed up her tired old self a bit more and got herself into working temperature, she slowly made her way to invite everyone she could think of and to procure help in preparation for the party. And then she stopped in her path and remembered, "oh, I almost forgot to ask the orange lion's permission for holding this celebration. I'm sure he'll agree as I heard he likes get togethers and eating tea cakes."

When she approached the orange lion's lair she was amazed at his fierce look and his thick mane made him seem even more foreboding so she spoke in a meek voice. "Excuse me, Sir Lion, I am thinking of having a tea party this afternoon. Would you be so gracious as to give me your consent for the affair and be my guest of honour?"

The orange beast stretched himself where he lay under a shady tree and yawned, revealing short powerful jaws and long sharp teeth and answered: "Why of course, my dear. I would be delighted. We haven't had a party for several years, but be sure to make a lot of tea cakes because I'm as hungry as a lion. Don't forget the punch and don't be late!"

She lumbered away as fast as she could because the gruff growl and threatening appearance of the big orange cat frightened her. Next she visited the silver fox. He sat in front of his den smoking his pipe with one paw and stroking his pointed beard with the other and looking very clever while he gloated over his sheik soft silver coat of fur and bushy tail. He glared at her with his piercing blue eyes making her feel uncomfortable.

"Hello, Mr. Fox. Would you like to come to my tea party this afternoon?"

Although he was short even for a fox, he seemed to puff himself bigger than his size and said in a disdainful voice, "I've tasted your cakes before. They're not much you know, but they'll do I suppose. Yes, I think I will come but be sure to have everything ready because I'm hungry. Don't forget to make lots of tea!"

Again she hurried away as fast as she could because there was something puzzling about the sly silver fox that she couldn't quite define, but he gave her a feeling of uneasiness and she didn't trust him. Next she approached the yellow baboons who were eating nuts and fruit and picking lice off their shiny hair that gleamed in the jungle sun. My, they seem very vain! Mother Turtle thought, with their sleek yellow hair, bare red faces and cold friendless airs. She spoke to one who appeared to be in charge.

"Hello, I'm having a tea party this afternoon. Would you like to come?"

The yellow baboon queen sneered at her and replied with a forced voice, "Since when do baboons stoop to having tea with turtles?"

But a monkey right next to her jabbed the queen and said, "Why not?" We'll have some free food and then leave."

So they agreed to attend Mother Turtle's tea, but when she asked for help because she was old and not as quick moving as she once had been, she was answered with: "Oh, no, not us, much too busy picking fleas and we must swing from the vines for exercise but we'll help in eating because we're scavengers."

So after she had made the rounds of the jungle and invited all the animals, Mother Turtle hurried home to fix her cakes alone. She hummed and whistled while she worked and when she finished her baking at last, it was almost time for the party to start. "Ah, I really did myself in this time. Not as young as I used to be. Well, it's all in the name of doing something good for the rest of the jungle. Don't get much out of it myself but exhaustion.

Nevertheless, if it makes the animals happy, then I will be glad to have been of some service. I hope the orange lion will like my cakes and also Mr. Fox. They should, for I've spent so much effort on them."

Soon, many animals began arriving. There were the giraffes who strolled outside on Mother Turtle's lawn and munched on leaves of high trees. There were also some birds of every imagined colour and Mrs. Nightingale flapped in and perched herself on a branch to make ready for her song. Some zebras dropped by and even the rhinoceros came to have some tea and cakes. Mother Turtle felt very honoured and tried to move as fast as she could to begin serving her guests.

"Your kitchen smells so good!" exclaimed Mrs. Nightingale. "All spicy and nice! Can hardly wait to taste your cakes."

"I'll go and get them now. They're cooling on the table." As she conversed, the orange lion appeared and gave a roar just for show. "Where's the cakes? I'm as hungry as a lion! Is the punch ready too?"

Before she could answer, along came Mr. Fox with his silver coat, looking very sly. "Hmmin? Is everything ready? Do the cakes taste good or did you forget to add something? Where's the tea?"

Again, before she could answer, the yellow baboons swung in on their vines and hopped right past her not even bothering to greet her but began at once to chatter to the orange lion and silver fox. Mother Turtle could hear their voices ring out in laughter and then Sir Lion growled with a smile: "I do so like active baboons!"

And the sly silver fox squinted his piercing blue eyes and demanded with a cunning smirk: "What have you prepared? I'll give you all the fruit and nuts you need, just ask me for whatever you want! Never mind that old Turtle! The time is for young yellow baboons like you!"

"Best get the cakes and serve the punch and tea," complained Mother Turtle when she overheard their conversation. Feeling disappointed, disgruntled and defenceless, she slowly crawled inside her house. But when she reached the kitchen she screamed: "Oh, look everyone, someone's stolen my cakes, my recipe and my tea and punch!"

All the animals of the jungle tried to rush into Mother Turtle's small kitchen but when they did, her whole house collapsed for it was only made of mud and sticks after all.

"Oh, dear me. I hope no one is hurt!" and she looked around to be sure everyone was all right. Then quite puzzled she questioned with her wrinkled old eyes growing bigger. "But where are the orange lion, the silver fox and the yellow baboons?"

Why, they were having a tea party at the other end of the jungle! The yellow baboons had stolen Mother Turtle's tea cakes, her punch and her tea too and sat on a clearing with the orange lion and silver fox in the warm jungle sun laughing and joking about their success in being thieves and hurting Mother Turtle. And while they were having a good time, every now and then, a baboon would pick off a flea and eat it.

The very eager orange lion purred: "Indeed, I do so like active monkeys! Such good tea cakes you make and I do enjoy your punch! We must do this more often."

The overly attentive silver fox added in a sly voice: "Monkeys like you are sure to get ahead in life. Just come to me for all the fruit and nuts you need and we'll all have a grand time having tea parties."

The coy, priggish queen of the yellow baboons haughtily replied with a good deal of arrogance: "Yes, now that we stole the cakes and Mother Turtle's recipe, we shall have lots of parties from here on and only invite Sir Lion, Mr. Fox and ourselves, for we are all the company we need. Who cares about all the other animals in the jungle and about Mother Turtle's feelings? We're much too conceited to worry about anyone but ourselves. It's such fun to be empty headed and shallow thinking!"

With this statement, she popped a flea into her mouth, stroked her soft yellow hair, then gave a wide yawn just like any typical monkey and smiled quite satisfied with herself for she was the queen of the baboons and had the orange lion and silver fox just where she wanted them.

The moral of this true story is: Remember when in jungle, do as the jungle animals do and the boss is always right no matter what, even when he's wrong, he's right!

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, May 20

9:00 Perspective

8:30 Coach

9:30 Music

My True Love

10:00 News In English

Hyden buys a ring for Christian as a Christmas present.

10:20 Feature Film — Nothing personal

9:30 Soccer Match

Starring: Amanda Donohoe and Bruce Dem

10:15 News In English

Robert Whitloff, a cop burdened by guilt since the day her brother was killed in front of her, has become a danger to everyone. Following a touchy incident, the police close the file on her brother's death. Roberta, a hard and stubborn character, decides to act alone. How will she find the murderer? She tries to engage the help of a tough bounty hunter, Billy Archer. Unfortunately, things don't work out and she finds herself alone once again. Will she discover the real reason for her brother's death? Roberta, a live wire and obsessive character who works within or outside the law, undertakes her investigation with vengeance as her guiding light.

Friday, May 21

8:30 AF

9:10 E.N.G.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Wagner

Chance Of A Lifetime

Starring: Betty White

Evelyn runs the company efficiently after her husband's death. Suddenly she discovers that she has a serious illness.

Saturday, May 22

8:30 Super Bloopers And New Practical Jokes

Sunday, May 23

8:30 Executive Stress

9:10 The Good Guys

All That Sparkles

Sarah gives Lofthouse a lift to his interview for a job as a diamond courier. She leaves the children with MacAdyean. Guy Lofthouse is running late as he is in Covent Garden rather than Hatton Garden. There is an urgent call for Lofthouse telling him that there's the chance of a lifetime job if he can get to Browns Hotel by two o'clock to meet a Mr. Neussens.

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Series

Monday, May 24

8:30 The Powers That Be

The grandmother comes to her son's house to celebrate her birthday.

## Action man Mel Gibson—a romantic at heart

By Robert Shelton

**LONDON**—Filmgoers have a fairly fixed mental picture of superstar Mel Gibson. The characters he created in *Mad Max* and *Lethal Weapon* were so popular that both action adventures went on to become trilogies. Just as we thought we had Gibson fixed in our mind as the impulsive, eccentric detective Martin Riggs in the third *Lethal Weapon* film, the dark-haired, blue-eyed actor goes all romantic in his latest film, *Forever Young*.

Gibson has strong, personal romantic feelings. "I give my wife the occasional potted fern or plant, and I was quite a romantic when I was a teenager," he admitted. "I recall singing some love hit outside a girl's school when I was only 16. I serenaded not just one girl, but the whole lot of them. Then a grumpy matron came after me and I thought it was horrendous, but I'm not going to tell you the title!"

The actor has taken roles against his type before, notably as Prince Hamlet in Franco Zeffirelli's 1991 film of the Shakespeare production. The thought of ruggedly primitive Gibson playing the conflicted "inaction man" in *Shakespeare* caused widespread amusement, but Gibson had the last laugh—he brought his enormous following to the cinemas in a widely praised role that even he has

come to accept as "not too bad."

Gibson is a curiously candid man who exhibits introspection and little vanity. Top ranking among Hollywood stars, he can for the most part decide his own roles. "I've done a couple of things for the brass and while doing them, I enjoyed myself," he said. "I've also done things for love that I've hated. Really, there's not a conscious plan. At the end of the day, the whole damn thing is a business, making films, and you want the chance to fire a blank, now and then."

He says it is gratifying when a picture turns out to be a massive box-office hit. "When something proves popular, you know you're hitting a nerve somewhere. I once did something that made a lot of money, and I thought it was horrendous, but I'm not going to tell you the title!"

*Forever Young* is the story of a World War II American test pilot who helps a friend with an experiment in cryogenics. Because his character is distraught over a loved one's near-fatal accident, he agrees to "be frozen" for a year. Needless to say, the experiment goes wrong and he sleeps for 50 years. He wakes in 1992, still in love with his injured sweetheart.

Max Rockatansky is a war hero in a futuristic setting, amid the rubble and debris of a war to end all wars. He emerges as a motorbike man, a cut above the rest. The film was directed by physician-turned-film director George Miller (who just made the startling *Lorenzo's Oil*, a film about a family battling their son's illness). Something of



Famous for his "macho" movies Mel Gibson hides a tender streak under his tough facade

the epic battle between the bikers and police must have fueled the movie's success. Two years later came a sequel, followed in 1985 by *Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome*.

Gibson was born on the

American east coast. His father emigrated to Australia, bringing young Mel along. He graduated from high school there and entered Sydney's National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA). Even after the success of the first *Mad Max* film, Gibson returned to NIDA for further study and a chance to gain practical stage experience.

In Adelaide, he joined the State Theatre Company of South Australia and received some coveted reviews. He was recognized with the Australian Film Institute Best Actor Award for his role in *Tim*, in which he played a retarded handyman in love with a woman twice his age.

He won another major award for his role in Peter Weir's brilliant *Gallipoli* film. In 1983, he again worked with director Weir in *The Year Of Living Dangerously*, a story of intrigue set in South East Asia. He appeared on stage in Arthur Miller's *Death Of A Salesman* and then played the mutiny leader Fletcher Christian in the remake of *The Bounty* in 1984.

Another popular character Gibson created is the volatile, almost unstable detective Martin Riggs, an impulsive policeman tamed only by the mellow reserve of his partner, played by Danny Glover. The three *Lethal*

Weapon films had a different sort of violence than *Mad Max*. Yet Gibson does not regret, in retrospect, so much screen violence.

"I won't disown what I've done, even though some actors are now doing that," he said. "I don't believe I've been involved in all that much violence. The *Lethal Weapon* films are meant to be setups, not to be taken all that seriously." He says that film is much maligned for violence these days and is being made a scapegoat.

"Nothing breeds violence in a community quicker than poor management in government," he said.

Gibson and his wife have six children, the eldest of whom is 12. He, like other parents, pays attention to what they watch on TV, video or in the cinema. "You draw the line. I'm certainly not going to screen *Basic Instinct* for them," he says that if he were offered a film that might be damaging to the viewer or to society, he'd call a halt. "There is a point where I wouldn't become involved if a film is too negative in approach, too damaging."

Because the three *Lethal Weapon* films had such box office appeal, there's talk already of a fourth film in the series. Gibson has his doubts, however. "How many times can you do the same script?"

the same character?"

Gibson also has his doubts about *Shakespeare* on film. "There's been talk of me as Marc Antony. I think Hamlet is better on stage — where it can evolve over a long period of time — than frozen on celluloid film." But he admits that Hamlet did look nice and reached a lot of people.

In *Forever Young*, Gibson's character has to age 50 years. "It often took five hours of makeup and felt like a wet pizza was on my face," he said. "You think a bit about your own aging, but I don't see myself looking like that when I am 80!" There's so much emphasis on youth in Hollywood. Some people are always having their face lifted, and the dimples on their chins are really just their navels," he joked.

"Everyone wants to stay young but there's something to be said about the peace of mind you begin to get when you grow older," he said. "My thirties are a lot better than my twenties were, if you don't lose your mind or get Alzheimer's Disease, my sixties could be even better. I suppose what *Forever Young* is really saying is that certain feelings, like deep love, are really for a lifetime. A few years here or there are not really going to change such an important feeling as that."

## De Niro read screenplay aloud

### twice to decide between roles

By Terril Jones  
The Associated Press

**CANNES**, France — Robert De Niro says he had to read aloud the entire screenplay of his latest movie twice to decide which of the two main roles he would play.

De Niro, whose presence at the Cannes Film Festival has been the biggest sensation so far of this annual cinematic frenzy, acted out the two roles in *Mad Dog And Glory* with the director and producers before settling on the part of Wayne Dobie, a timid cop who has a heart of gold.

The other role, of mobster moneylender and sometimes stand-up comic Frank Milo, is played by veteran comedian Bill Murray.

But it could have been either way, with De Niro easily imaginable as the pitiless mafia loanshark who's willing to make friends, and Murray as the soft-spoken detective who learns to make a stand.

De Niro went through both roles with a group including director John McNaughton and co-producer Martin Scorsese as they figured out what to do.

"I read the part of Frank and the part of Wayne in back-to-back screenplay sessions," De Niro said at a packed news conference Sunday.

"I was leaning toward Wayne," he told about 500 reporters at the seaside Palais Des Festivals. "Frank Milo has great charm: He's tough

but does comedy — but I've done that before."

"It was a very offbeat script, but a great idea," said De Niro, simply dressed in a windbreaker-type jacket.

Murray did not take part in the readings but was suggested after De Niro settled on Wayne's role.

"Bob decided to bring Bill in, and it was a great idea," said McNaughton, whose previous credits include *Henry: Portrait Of A Serial Killer* and *The Borrower*.

In the film Wayne inadvertently saves the life of mafioso Frank, who scornfully walks away from the scene but later invites Wayne to his club to say thanks — and offers his barmaid Glory (Uma Thurman) to Wayne

for a week.

Predictably, Wayne falls in love with Glory, and predictably, problems arise when Frank wants her back.

Thurman, widely noticed in *The Adventures Of Baron Munchausen* and most recently starring in the thriller *Jennifer Eight*, said she did not feel the film encourages tolerance of women bartered as objects between men.

"The film might say it's a popular notion if it supported the notion," said Thurman, wearing a loose brown dress and sunglasses. "But in fact the character is trying to get out of the situation."

Richard Price, who wrote the screenplay, based *Glory* on a woman he met on an airplane who was in the same position as Thurman's char-

acter, McNaughton said. "Unfortunately, life is not always politically correct," he said. "In the 1980s, this still exists."

Murray is less than scintillating, as a comic lacking the suave energy of the lounge lizard he played on television's *Saturday Night Live* in the 1970s, and unconvincing as a mobster heavyweight who yearns to make people laugh.

De Niro, who has played both mafia boss (*Godfather II*) and would-be stand-up funnyman (*The King Of Comedy*), does well as the tender cop who delivers his

neighbours' newspapers and hasn't drawn his gun in 15 years.

Thurman is a deliciously innocent nymph who is inde-

bted to Frank for favours done for her brother, in trouble with the law, but is fed up doing Frank's bidding and wants out.

De Niro's grand entrance up the steps of the Palais created pandemonium among the thousands of fans gathered outside for the midnight screening of *Mad Dog Saturday night*, but was short-lived as he strode straight into the theatre, much to the chagrin of scores of photographers clustered at the entrance.

About 30 minutes into the film however, the actor reappeared for more poses with the photographers, dressed in tuxedos in line with the strict Cannes Film Festival tradition for evening screenings.

Actors Robert De Niro and Uma Thurman share a laugh as they pose for photographers at the Cannes Film Festival where they are promoting the film *Mad Dogs And Glory* in which they star (AFP photo)

## After 50 years and 30 films, Kurosawa plans to keep going

By Terril Jones  
The Associated Press

**CANNES**, France — After 30 films in a 50-year career, filmmaker Akira Kurosawa, 82, has no plans to stop, much as the revered professor in his new work, *Madadayo* (not yet).

One would think Kurosawa, attending the Cannes Film Festival for the international premiere of the film, would merit retirement at his age after two Academy Awards and such acclaimed films as *The Seven Samurai*, *Rashomon* and *Ran*.

But like Hyakken Uchida, the writer on whom his new

film is based, Kurosawa seems to thumb his nose at the world and say, "not yet."

*Madadayo* is based on the life of essayist and poet Uchida, who died in 1971, but the parallels with Kurosawa's own life are undeniable.

Both are creators, at times consumed with their artistry.

Uchida, played by Tatsuo Matsuura, is adored by his students, much as Kurosawa is treated as the master of Japanese cinema by film aficionados. And Uchida died when, like Kurosawa today, he was 82.

Uchida's persistent repetition, even in weakened old age, of *Madadayo* is Kurosawa's personal defiance of death, insisting it's not time to go.

In fact, he says, there are dozens of movies he still wants to make, and three in particular, though he won't elaborate.

*Madadayo* was one such lingering pet project.

"I've respected Hyakken Uchida very much since a long time ago, but I always thought it would be very difficult to make a film about him," Kurosawa recalled following a screening of the movie at the Cannes Festival.

"He had an extremely unique way of speaking, difficult for even Japanese to understand.

wrote the script in 17 days," Kurosawa said.

It is a two hours, 14 minute tale of respect for an instructor, love for a patron and considerable male bonding.

Uchida's students mobilize themselves to move Uchida from his house destroyed in World War II, and organize a massive search party for a cat gone astray. Led by Hisashi Igawa and George Tokoro, the disciples form a society to throw birthday parties annually.

The scenes are few and sometimes tediously long, especially Uchida's mourning for the cat.

Some of the casting also

seems odd — Takako, a goofy comedian, is perhaps best known for television commercials for sliced cheese and mosquito repellent. He nevertheless turns a fine performance as a cheerful, determined Amaki.

Akira Terao, a well-known television actor and pop singer, is another of the main disciples, yet has no lines.

"I thought he was cut out for someone like that," Kurosawa said. "He loves his teacher but is silent. Perhaps he loved the teacher the deepest."

Terao did, however, provide the film's uncredited

co. is financing *Madadayo*, Kurosawa's last film. *Rhapsody* in August, was embroiled in controversy and criticism that he dwelt on the victims of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki without examining why it occurred.

Recently he has been introducing films shown in Japan's semipublic TV network.

His "secret" to staying energetic, he says, is that he follows no rules.

"Some people say don't smoke, don't drink and you'll live a long life, but not me," Kurosawa said. "I smoke, I enjoy a drink — I just lead a natural life."

## Cult film turns tables on intellectuals of French cinema

By Bernard Edinger  
Reuter

**PARIS** — The reviews were nearly all bad but three months after its release a film about a mediaeval knight and his footman lost in modern-day France has drawn seven million spectators and become a social phenomenon.

It is also a cult. People returning to see *Les Visiteurs* (The Visitors), a second and third time recite lines in time with the actors on the screen.

Teenagers in the street use some of the comedy's expressions, drawn from mediaeval French and the badly pronounced English of

contemporary French snobs.

Psychiatrists fill newspaper columns with analyses of the reasons for its success and the word "visitomania" has been coined to refer to its popularity.

*Les Visiteurs* is hardly intellectual material, as was sneeringly observed by France's critics when it was released.

In an early scene, the heroes — victims of a magician's potion gone wrong — are ushered into a modern bathroom where they look about uncomprehendingly before finally kneeling to wash their hands and faces in

the toilet bowl.

"It is certain this film will never be picked for the Cannes Film Festival," says Christian Clavier, referring to Europe's premier film competition. Clavier, who plays the ignorant but wily footman Jacquouille, jointly wrote the screenplay.

*Les Visiteurs*, expected to be seen by 10 million people in France — a fifth of the population — by the end of the summer, is based on a brief screenplay written by its director, Jean-Marie Poiré, several decades ago when he was only 17.

It recounts the extraordinary adventures of Godefroy

Amaury De Malte, count of Montmirail, Apremont and Popincourt returning to his family's feudal estates through a 1,000-year time warp.

From the moment that Godefroy and Jacquouille, also known as La Fripouille (the knave), find themselves on the side of a modern highway choking because of pollution, the film is an endless series of misunderstandings.

Godefroy quickly understands his predicament but is unable to persuade anyone he is anything but a quaintly dressed and smelly eccentric who speaks odd French.

He is sent to a psychiatric hospital after a brutal encounter with a group of French policemen who club him senseless.

Jacquouille adapts better. He falls in with a female vagrant who roams rubbish tips pushing a supermarket trolley loaded with her belongings.

The two reunite thanks to Godefroy's descendant, the present Countess of Montmirail. The family long ago sold off the castle, now an expensive hotel owned by Jacquouille's descendant, an uppity nouveau riche flop.

Godefroy, fearful only of

of present-day French bourgeoisie through the eyes of the two visitors.

Poiré said: "The film is undoubtedly a denunciation of modernism but it also underlines the usefulness of certain values brought in by the French Revolution."

Hollywood wants to buy the rights to film a re-make but Poiré says no.

"We realise average American audiences will not go to see sub-titled films. But I think if it is intelligently dubbed, we may have a winner on our hands in America. That's where the biggest film audiences are."

## Latin America may face AIDS epidemic

By Peter Muñoz  
The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — In a dim cabaret, sultry Valeria Venus announces an X-rated lottery: A night of pleasure for the bearer of a specially marked condom.

Lurking in the shadows is her nemesis, Celso AIDS. He cannot be stopped, but Valeria is protected: No condom, no sex.

The scenes are from *Venus Of Fire*, a steamy education video that drew top ratings on Brazilian television. It was produced by the Institute for Religious Studies in Rio, which runs one of dozens of private Latin American campaigns against AIDS.

Polluted blood banks, ignorance, poverty and free-wheeling "macho" attitudes toward sex have pushed Latin America, a region of 450 million people, to the brink of an AIDS epidemic, experts say.

Yet many official AIDS campaign tiptoe around such delicate topics as homosexuality, prostitution and adultery. Even the simplest message of AIDS prevention — wear a condom — has been suppressed by the Roman Catholic Church.

*Venus Of Fire* is being shown in nightclubs, truck stops and at open-air screenings in red-light districts across Brazil.

"It's aimed at promiscuous

people, who are the most threatened," said the director, Victor Lopes. "But how to reach them? Dressed as nurses, we surely won't."

More than 70,000 cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) have been registered in Latin America since 1981, but officials acknowledge the real number is much higher. More than 2 million more people are believed to carry the HIV virus, which leads to the deadly disease.

Brazil is among the world leaders in confirmed AIDS cases, with nearly 35,000 in a population of 150 million. Only the United States, Uganda and Tanzania have higher percentages.

A former health minister, Alceni Guerra, estimated that six million Brazilians would be infected by the end of this decade.

According to Dr. Lair Guerra De Macedo, head of the ministry's anti-AIDS programme, "what we have now is enough to cause a collapse of our health care system."

Fighting the disease, even finding it, can be difficult in Latin American societies that encourage male promiscuity and persecute homosexuals, who often arrange for a wife or girlfriend as a "cover."

A survey by the Colombian foundation Apoyemos, which fights AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases,

found that 38 per cent of the men questioned were bisexual.

As a result, AIDS has spread quickly among women. In Brazil, the ratio of men to women with AIDS went from 124-1 in 1984 to 5-1 last year. It is now down to 4-1 and falling.

"We think AIDS in Brazil is about as bad as in the United States," said American anthropologist Richard Parker, former head of AIDS Prevention for the Brazilian government. "If that's true, the effects will be far more catastrophic."

Uncontrolled or clandestine blood banks also spread the disease. Commercial banks bought blood from beggars, alcoholics and prostitutes, often for as little as a plate of food.

In Mexico, hundreds of people were infected by transfusions of contaminated blood after the earthquake of 1985.

"There is no quality testing or systematic control, and official information doesn't exist," said Heriberto De Souza, president of the Brazilian Interdisciplinary AIDS Association. Mr. De Souza, a hemophiliac, and his two brothers got AIDS from transfusions. The brothers died.

Treatment is expensive, and often denied.

Patients are turned away by overburdened public hospitals or by medical personnel who fear catching the disease. Many hospitals receive AIDS patients in emergency wards for lack of other space.

Private clinics in Brazil charge AIDS patients \$600 a day or more just for a room, with medical care extra.

In Peru, a few weeks' supply of the AIDS medicine AZT can cost \$300, more than seven times the monthly minimum wage of \$40.

Government AIDS programmes have been hampered by politics, tight budgets and

pressure from the Catholic Church.

Brazil's first anti-AIDS campaign, in the late 1980s, consisted mostly of TV ads for safe sex during the annual carnival before Lent.

It is to be revived with a promised three-year, \$125 million loan from the World Bank, but the government has yet to put up the required matching funds.

"The government's action has been a disaster," said Mr. De Souza of the AIDS Association. "We have a joke here: Which does more harm, the virus or the policy?"

In Colombia, the Health

Ministry produced a video about Gabriel Calvo Massi, an artist with AIDS, but the 200 copies stayed on the shelf because there was no money for distribution.

Two TV stations in Chile, including one owned by the Catholic Church, refused to broadcast a government spot suggesting the use of condoms.

In Colombia, Bishop Dario Castrillon protested that a government television spot showing a side view of a naked man reaching for a condom promoted adultery. It was restricted to late-night slots.

"You won't see ads urging people to use condoms," said Ulises Pego of Mexico's National Council for the Prevention of AIDS. "The only thing we can do is create the illusion."

Critics say official campaigns often are more frightening than educational.

A billboard ad in Venezuela, for example, says: "Simply, AIDS kills. Living in pairs is better."

In Argentina, a TV ad shows a mature couple cleaning out a teenager's room. A voice says: "They thought AIDS was a good way of clearing the world of homosexuals and drug users. Now they're cleaning out their daughter's room."

The "empty room" ad is "terrifying, moralistic and valueless," said Carlos Jaure-

### 'Macho' tradition breeds AIDS

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The stereotype of the hot-blooded latin lover is cherished by South America's "macho" men. It also has contributed to an AIDS explosion.

Promiscuous sex, closet homosexuals and submissive women have made the continent an ideal breeding ground for the disease, experts say.

"Machismo complicates things," said Richard Parker, an American anthropologist who wrote *Sexuality, Politics And AIDS In Brazil*.

"Macho" implies assertive, virile and domineering. For Latin American men, it means having frequent sex with diverse partners. That increases the risk of getting and spreading AIDS.

The "macho" man also hates homosexuality.

"You can't be openly gay here like in the United States," said Aldo Araujo of the Homosexual Movement of Lima, Peru. "Everything here is hushed up, so Peruvians are highly uninformed about AIDS."

Mr. Araujo said his group had been threatened by the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, a leftist guerrilla group that has killed homosexuals and prostitutes as part of a "moralisation" campaign.

"In the United States, you have a clearly defined gay community and people identify themselves with it," Mr. Parker said. "You can use it as a base for treatment. Here, there is no gay identity or gay pride. That makes it difficult to do prevention work."

Women are the greatest victims of the double standard of sexual behaviour.

In many Latin societies, a woman is expected to remain a virgin until marriage. A wife cannot ask her unfaithful husband to wear a condom without calling her fidelity, or his, into question.

"That deeply complicates women's ability to protect themselves," said Mr. Parker. "Heterosexual transmission is the most rapidly growing form of infection."

## Barnard, Cooley look back 25 years to 1st heart transplants

By Susan Hightower  
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Peany Eastham is one of thousands of Americans over the last 25 years given "the ultimate gift" — a second chance at life through heart transplantation.

"You really have a different appreciation for life. The sun is brighter, the flowers prettier, children more im-

portant — your family more important. You don't take things for granted," said the 47-year-old Mrs. Eastham, who received a new heart eight years ago.

She was a guest recently at a 25th anniversary celebration of the first successful heart transplant in the United States.

Dr. Denton Cooley performed that operation on

May 3, 1968, a few months after Dr. Christian Barnard did the first such surgery in Cape Town, South Africa.

The two doctors — long-time friends — held a relaxed news conference at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston, joking and reminiscing about the landmark operations.

Dr. Barnard downplayed the scientific significance of

the first heart transplant. "You'll be surprised to know that the one thing that amazed us after the first transplant was the tremendous interest in this procedure and the tremendous amount of publicity that followed this procedure, because we never considered the transplant as a great scientific event. It was a technical event."

Louis Washkansky lived 18 days after receiving the first transplanted heart on Dec. 2, 1967. Everett Thomas, the first American patient at St. Luke's, died within a year.

But the life spans lengthened. Dr. Barnard's seventh patient is still alive, 23 years after his transplant.

Frequent recipient rejections of the new heart caused the surgery's popularity to decline after 1972. However, the procedure rebounded in the early 1980s with new organ preservation techniques and immuno-suppressive drugs, particularly the anti-rejection drug Cyclosporine, Dr. Cooley said.

More than 2,000 heart transplants were performed

in the United States last year. The one-year survival rate now is about 80 per cent.

Dr. Barnard, who is retired from operating, is professor emeritus of the University of Capetown. Dr. Cooley is surgeon-in-chief at Texas Heart Institute, chief of cardiovascular surgery at St. Luke's and a professor at the University of Texas Medical School in Houston.

Dr. Cooley said one of the main breakthroughs that has fostered the growth of transplantation is the concept of brain death, that life ends not when all organs stop working but when the brain quits functioning.

"Of course, transplanting the heart isn't like transplant-

ing a kidney or a liver or a lung," Dr. Cooley said.

"People have these concepts of the heart as the seat of the soul, and we wondered how one could take a heart from an individual with the heart still beating and then use it for the benefit of a recipient."

The two agreed that making organ donation automatic in trauma cases could help combat the organ shortage. More than 2,800 patients in the United States are on the waiting list for heart transplants, Dr. Cooley said.

Despite advances in mechanical hearts, Dr. Cooley and Dr. Barnard believe human heart transplantation will remain the

ideal because it offers patients a superior quality of life.

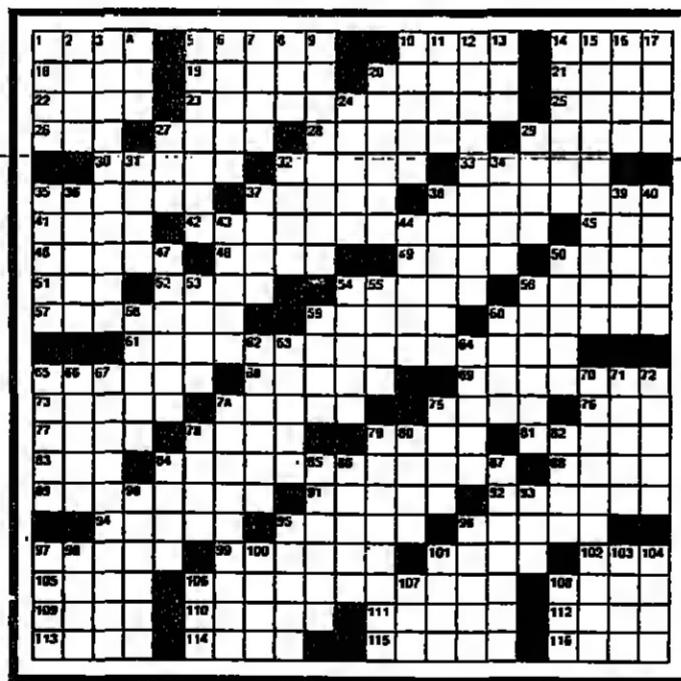
Mrs. Eastham, a speech pathologist, said she's proof of that.

She received her new heart in 1985. 1 1/2 years after her original heart muscle failed and she was told she had 18 months to live.

"I am normal. I have completely normal quality of life. I do anything I want to do," Mrs. Eastham said.

"I would encourage people to be donors. It is the ultimate gift."

### WEEKEND CROSSWORD



## Arafat

(Continued from page 1)  
can't unless the powers of the elected bodies were pre-defined. We said we wanted legislative powers, and that was agreed upon. We thought some progress had been made. The next day Israel said let's add one phrase, saying that any laws passed by the body must be approved by the (Israeli) military. How can we work in a situation like that?" He urged the Israelis to get

serious about the creation of an independent Palestinian homeland. "You have to ask yourselves, how long can you depend on power?" he said. "When you deny the existence of a Palestinian state, you are denying the existence of Israel because the opposition party was shaken.

The infighting overshadowed Mideast peace talks and stymied efforts to end the deadlock in those negotiations, which ad-

journed last week in Washington. Two fending members of Mr. Rabin's cabinet escalated their battle Wednesday, and a meeting Tuesday night that was supposed to unify Mr. Netanyahu's Likud Party ended instead with his rivals walking out in anger.

Mr. Netanyahu was forced to postpone to a later session a show-of-hands vote to a party

governing board after trying unsuccessfully to push through his own candidates.

Leading the rebellion was former Foreign Minister David Levy, who boycotted the three-day conference. It was the first meeting of the right-wing party since Mr. Netanyahu defeated Levy for Likud's leadership in March.

## Denmark saves European unity plans

(Continued from page 1)  
demonstrators hurled a total of six to eight tonnes of stones at police.

Riot squad chief Willy Eliaisen said officers were struck by buried cobblestones, rocks and metal bars. Twenty-four were injured, but all were discharged from hospitals by Wednesday, including one who had remained unconscious through the night, he said.

"Our people fired up to 100 warning shots in the air before shooting at demonstrators," said deputy Copenhagen police chief Anne-Mette Moller. "They were in a life-threatening situation."

Mrs. Moller said one rioter was shot in the back, three in the stomach and the other six were shot in the hand, shoulder or foot.

## Jardaneh says sales tax inevitable

(Continued from page 1)  
families and said that there was a long list of items which were exempted from the tax.

He referred to a key demand by the Chamber of Industry to impose the tax on imported goods on their value after the addition of customs duty and not on the cost of freight (C&F) value.

"Such a calculation would sharply raise prices and the government did not agree to the chamber's request which would hurt the consumer," said the minister.

He said that some industrialists and traders were putting their own interests above those of the public and the country.

Mr. Jardaneh lashed out at a study prepared by the accounting firm Dajani Alaa'ddin and describing it as unscientific and shallow.

The study, prepared at the

Hospital officials and police refused to comment on their conditions.

The fighting broke out Tuesday night about an hour after informal results showed Danes had approved the Maastricht Treaty.

Mr. Nyrop Rasmussen suggested the melee was "planned and organised" but did not elaborate.

He said it should not be linked to those who voted against the Maastricht Treaty.

Those who have voted 'no' have no sympathy and no responsibility at all for what happened," he said.

Demonstrators had posted a banner saying "EC-free zone" next to a burning barricade across the north bridge, about a kilometre from parliament. But otherwise there appeared little connection to the voting.

## Rabin and Netanyahu face infighting

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's main political bodies were in disarray Wednesday as new arguments tore at Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's cabinet and Benjamin Netanyahu's grip on the major opposition party was shaken.

The infighting overshadowed Mideast peace talks and stymied efforts to end the deadlock in those negotiations, which ad-

journed last week in Washington. Two fending members of Mr. Rabin's cabinet escalated their battle Wednesday, and a meeting Tuesday night that was supposed to unify Mr. Netanyahu's Likud Party ended instead with his rivals walking out in anger.

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## Jordan Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP)



The chairman and members of MAP's board of trustees wish to express their deepest gratitude and appreciation to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, and Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and his fiancee, for patronising MAP's activities and participating in MAP's march last Friday.

MAP also wishes to express thanks to all brothers and sisters among Jordanian citizens for their efforts to make MAP's activities successful in extending assistance in establishing health centres in Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon.

MAP would also like to express thanks to all those who contributed to the march; diplomatic missions, companies, schools, universities and various organisations either directly or through organising the march, or providing financial assistance. MAP also thanks all individuals and outlets who contributed to the success of its national lottery campaign.

MAP also thanks the directors of the Amman Baccalaureate School, Nazik Al-Hariri Centre, Civil Defence, Public Security Departments (Traffic Control and Army Music Band), the municipality of Greater Amman, and the Information Services including Radio Jordan and Jordan Television and the Press.

Abdul Majeed Shoman  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

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# Sports

## Jordan prepares to host World Cup preliminaries

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

president of the Sports Media Federation, the vice-chairman of the Sports Medicine Federation as well as members of the JSF.

Team players will be staying in Irbid, close to the site of the week-long first matches — the Al Hassan Sports City — while officials and referees will be staying in Amman.

Mr. Bilbeisi pointed out that a well-equipped media centre had been set up at the stadium as there would be wide coverage of this international event, sanctioned by the International Soccer Federation — FIFA. Tight security will be maintained at all times.

"We hope that we will successfully host these preliminaries and that the visiting teams will have an enjoyable stay in Jordan," Mr. Bilbeisi said.

FIFA referees from Iran, Syria, Thailand, Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates will be officiating the matches.

The second leg of the first round will be played June 12-20 in Chengdu, China. The group winner will qualify to the second round.

Jordan is better prepared this time

Unlike the first two times of Jordan's World Cup qualifying experience, this year's preparations seem to be the best so far. Mr. Bilbeisi pointed out that the JSF had done its utmost to best



Jordan's national team

prepare the Jordanian team for the upcoming matches. To this end, the team had 10 friendly matches with neighbouring Arab teams.

In Jordan's first World Cup qualifying experience for the 1986 cup in Mexico, the national team only had three preparatory matches. In the qualifying round, Jordan beat Qatar 1-0 in the first

match but lost the second match 2-0, and also lost to Iraq 3-2 and 2-0. In the 1990 World Cup preliminaries, the team had better results although they did not play any friendlies prior to the qualifiers. Jordan drew 1-1 and later lost 1-0 to Qatar. They later lost 1-0 and 4-0 to Iraq. The best results were against Oman winning both matches 2-0.

This time the national team began its preparations five months ago, and received a much needed boost when Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker urged all institutions and companies to fully support the national team and relieve players of their duties to fully prepare for the World Cup matches.

During the past few months the

Jordanian national team had intensive training camps, especially aimed at improving the players' physical fitness. The team later travelled to Syria, Qatar, Oman, and Lebanon to play a series of friendlies. Jordan ended up with an encouraging record — winning 5 matches, losing 1 and drawing 4 times.

Jordan beat Bahrain 1-0 and twice drew with Syria 1-1, and 2-2 and scored one win 3-2. They later played Qatar twice, winning 2-1 and drawing 1-1. In matches against Oman, Jordan won 1-0 and drew 0-0. The latest match was against Lebanon, on May 17, in which Jordan scored a 3-1 win. Lebanon had won the first match in Beirut 1-0.

### Schedule of matches in Irbid

- ★ Saturday, May 22 Jordan vs. Yemen Pakistan vs. China
- ★ Monday, May 24 Jordan vs. Iraq Yemen vs. Pakistan
- ★ Wednesday, May 26 Jordan vs. China Yemen vs. Iraq
- ★ Friday, May 28 Pakistan vs. Iraq Yemen vs. China
- ★ Sunday, May 30 Jordan vs. Pakistan Iraq vs. China

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MAY 20-21, 1993

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MAY 20, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** There are difficult influences at work this afternoon, late that require care on your part, particularly in travel as well as in conversations with others so be on your toes.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Today is one of those times to quietly join with an influential person in finding out what you can do to attain practical objectives, tonight consider the results.

**TAURUS:**

(April 20 to May 20)

A matter comes into the open where you can get associates to help you make arrangements that will include a good friend who expects much of you.

**GEMINI:**

(May 21 to June 21)

Your activities in whatever way has been found acceptable to those who have any control over your affairs or devise policies of a public nature.

**MOON CHILDREN:**

(June 22 to

July 21)

Take some time out now to go after whatever you want of an inspirational nature for your judgment is good and you will be pleased with the results.

**LEO:**

(July 22 August 21)

This is your day to get into whatever does not suit any member of your family or household and find ways to change circumstances as mutually beneficial.

**VIRGO:**

(August 22 to September

22)

You want all sorts of informa-

tion by which you can eliminate errors and build a more secure structure to your life and this is available to you now.

**LIBRA:** (September 22 to October 22) Money and other practical matters are greatly improved. Your today by putting your finest points of attention on and clearing up any confusions.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) This is one of those days to consider how you can enlarge or make changes while your residence or matters concerning your own home is concerned.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) A pastoral friend of much character knows just what you can do to be more successful and you would be wise to listen to and go along with this plan.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You have the expertise of a powerful expert to call upon to assist you in any interest you have where money or property matters are involved.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Your judgment is unusually good and accurate for putting in motion a new course of action whereby you can gain the growth that you are seeking for.

### F.A. Cup final replay

#### could go to penalties

for Arsenal and David Hurst's second half equaliser.

Wednesday will again be looking mainly to the unpredictable Chris Waddle to inspire them to their first F.A. Cup triumph since 1935.

Arsenal hope Paul Merson can shake off the torpor that gripped him Saturday as they seek an unprecedented double of both senior domestic cup competitions after his key role in their League Cup triumph over Wednesday last month.

Graham is expected to name an unchanged side with Wright re-

covering from soreness in a broken toe which did not prevent him playing Saturday and Adams coping with groin trouble.

Wednesday's Trevor Francis cannot finalise his line-up until a few hours before kick-off when right-back Roland Nilsson returns from Stockholm after captaining Sweden in a World Cup qualifier against Austria Wednesday.

Francis has defenders Peter Shirliff, who missed Saturday's match, and Viv Anderson under treatment.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY MAY 21, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** The New Moon in Gemini comes in a package that includes a Solar Eclipse and the Moon trine Jupiter bringing pleasant temperaments and kinder dispositions and a positive climate for business activity.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19)

Wind up in the morning the various situations with others requiring your attention after which try the various ideas our you think will improve your daily routines.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20)

Keep promises during the morning

that you have made to your partner, after which you can get into various obligations that have been neglected, ignored.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21)

You can solve a pending duty that has been bugging you but then you find that you will be able to get out in the world to impress some bigwigs.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21)

Confirm an arrangement with a compatible comrade for some recreation, then you can get into meetings with fellow associates to improve tasks.

**LEO:** (July 22 August 21)

You have a task you have agreed to do for a family member so get it in back of you quickly, then you can be off with congenial to an appealing amusement.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22)

Desk work requiring your special consideration should start the

days activities after which you can take up problems that exist at your own residence.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22)

This is the morning for you to handle money matters of importance in the morning for later you have outside duties to handle that are pressing.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21)

Your own goals should be considered and solved astutely in the morning while later you can get into financial interests from a long term aspect.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21)

A private matter can now be wound up sensibly and later, it's a good time for you to consider a tense problem with another person and to solve it.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20)

An important wish at last becomes yours in the morning and then you will be able to get into a secret desire that has been eluding you so go after it.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19)

Do a public master you have been putting off in the morning then you will be able to get the true facts by deep study of a new venture.

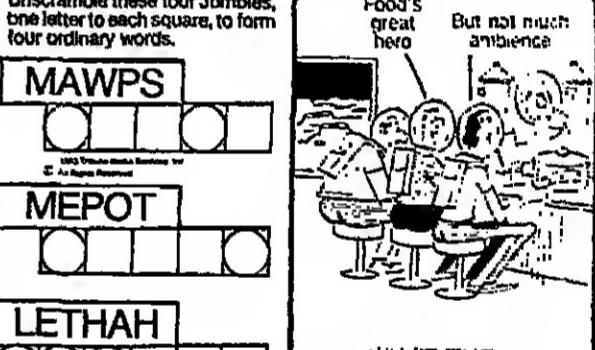
**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20)

A new situation you have been working on should be for you in the morning but then you need to get out in the world and handle civic and credit conditions.

### JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold



**MAWPS**

**MEPOT**

**LETHAH**

**FERPER**

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

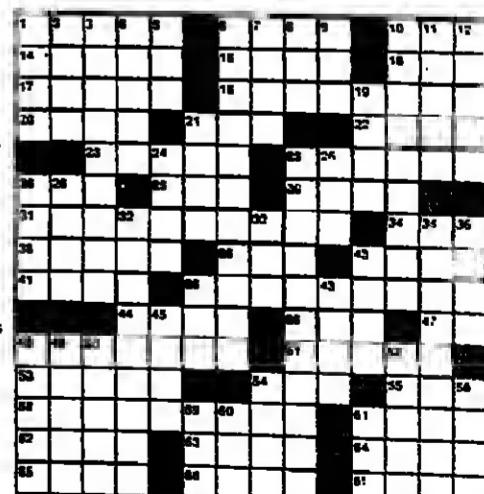
(Answers tomorrow)

- Yesterday's Jumble: DRAFT EMPTY INVERT REFUGE

Answer: You can always grow this in your garden if you work hard enough—TIRO

### THE Daily Crossword

by Hank Harrington



ACROSS

1. Come to a standstill  
5. Certain ray  
10. Abusive requirement

14. Deck in finery

15. Like the Gobi

16. Writer Bombeck

17. Utensil

18. Firewood

20. Lesson

21. Haggard heroine

22. Native of Baghdad ver.

23. Leafy ornamentals

25. Leathern jackets

27. Make a faux pas

30. Attention-getter

31. Land barons

32. Corrupt texts

39. —polio

40. Unprincipled one

41. Nearly all

42. Barren

44. Legato

46. After expenses

47. Hit song

48. Raise the standard of

51. Which way?

53. Seer's card

55. Verve

58. Ephemeral

59. Leprechaun country

61. Mansana in corpore

64. River sediment

65. Puppets

66. Pleasure sounds

67. British guns

68. Gargantuan city

69. Make a king

73. Dawn goddess

75. Resembling a widow

76. Playwright Novello

77. Gargantua

78. Gargantua

79. Argue against

## MEES: Egypt privatisation bogged down

NICOSIA (R) — Egypt's privatisation process has got bogged down in a messy management structure with few clear directives or allocation of responsibility, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) has said.

The weekly newsletter said holding companies set up to privatise Egypt's huge and ailing public sector as a key part of economic reforms were themselves digging in to stall change.

The World Bank has expressed concern at delays in structural adjustment and privatisations, which were originally planned to start early last year.

Privatisation and the prospect of lay-offs is still politically sensitive for Egypt's government, which has inherited a socialist-style economic tradition stretching back for decades. Cairo says it must go slowly to avoid the kind of social upheaval that toppled

governments in eastern Europe. MEES said many banks consulting to privatisate a first batch of 17 companies had stopped working on the project because it was unclear who was going to pay their fees and there were continuing arguments about how much the firms were worth.

The holding company responsible for tourism assets had not met since March because two public sector managers disputed which

of them was removed in a reshuffle. This held up the sell-off of many firms in the first batch, the newsletter said.

The government, which used to be closely involved in running public firms, has largely left the sector to its own devices, delegating management of the whole sector to Prime Minister Atef Sedki who has too many other responsibilities, MEES said.

Cairo economists say a few public managers have taken the initiative in trying to overhaul their sectors but most have consolidated the power of the holding companies, which were originally set up as temporary structures.

Egypt won agreement for more than \$10 billion in debt forgiveness from Paris Club creditors for the economic reforms.

## Indians go for gold despite soaring prices

BOMBAY (R) — Soaring world prices, the highest in 23 months, have done nothing to cut India's traditional hunger for gold, dealers and analysts said Wednesday.

"The Indian gold market is going up and will go up. International prices are moving up and local prices are keeping pace," said Bombay Bullion Association President M.L. Damani.

Indian gold prices Tuesday rose 14 rupees to close at 4,481 rupees (\$142.9) per 10 grammes, billion dealers said.

Mr. Damani believes India has gobbled up 250 tonnes of gold in the year to March 1992, at least half of it smuggled into the country. Official imports of gold have been placed at around 125 tonnes during the year.

In the past month, Indian gold prices have risen from 4,100 rupees (\$130.8) per 10 grammes to 4,500 rupees (\$143.5) even though it is not a traditional gold-buying time of year. Gold in India is a symbol of wealth, and gold jewellery is given by wives'

families to their husbands at marriage.

India liberalised its gold import policy in March 1992, allowing Indians living abroad to bring in up to five kilogrammes of the metal, subject to duty. Until then, individuals were not allowed to bring gold into India, although smuggling thrives, mostly via Dubai.

Gold prices, which crashed to 3,900 rupees (\$124.4) in March 1992 when imports were allowed, from 5,000 rupees (\$159.5) in the previous month, have since recovered some of the lost ground.

"I see a bright future for gold," Mr. Damani said. "The demand for gold is always going to be there. It's part of Indian thinking," he added.

Imports have not been able to curb smuggling, financed through "hawala" or unauthorised rupee-dollar deals. Smugglers have a margin of at least 15 per cent over imported gold.

Dealers said that nearly 100 tonnes of gold, worth 20 billion

rupees (\$638 million), has been brought into India both officially and by smuggling in the last four months of calendar 1992.

A recent report of the New York-based World Gold Council, quoted in Indian newspapers, has said India took 114 of the 624 tonnes of gold bought around the world in the first four months of 1993.

"Liberalisation of gold imports by the government has contributed to international demand for gold," said economist S.L. Shetty, who had been associated with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) until recently.

Mr. Shetty said India's consumption of gold was bound to go up because the government was encouraging it.

The government, wanting to stack up its gold reserves and pull money from the country's large informal economy into the system, introduced a scheme under which tax-free bonds are issued against gold.

## British Airways launches cash call

LONDON (AFP) — British Airways (B.A.) the biggest British airline, has called on shareholders for a £442 million (\$676 million) cash injection after announcing that pre-tax profits had fallen by 57 per cent in the 12 months to the end of March.

The full-year results showed a profit of £185 million, down at the low end of analysts' expectations, against a profit of £434 million the previous year, the company said.

New chairman Colin Marshall said that the fall in profits reflected the effects of the economic recession and the intense competition the company was facing.

B.A. whose image has recently been tarnished because of a "dirty tricks" row with Virgin Atlantic Airways, added that the 1991-92 results had been amended under new accounting rules to include the profit on the £149 million sale of a maintenance centre in Wales.

Without this inclusion, the fall in profits would have been kept to 35 per cent, the company said. B.A. said it was announcing,

the fall in profits would have been kept to 35 per cent, the company said.

B.A. said it was announcing its rights issue to cut the company debt, which has risen by £1.28 billion to £2.45 billion following a spending spree on airline acquisitions around the world.

The issue will be made on the basis of one new share for four old ones and priced at 245 pence, B.A. said.

For the year to March, turnover at the group rose seven per cent to £5.56 billion from £5.2 billion the year before, with passenger numbers up 10.5 per cent to 28.1 million.

The annual dividend was increased to 10.6 pence per share from 18.18 while the earnings per share fell 56 per cent to 24.1 pence from 54.6 pence.

During the year, one third of the company's staff were made redundant, cutting the workforce to 48,960.

B.A. meanwhile said it had completed the first stage of its alliance with the U.S. airline company USAir with an investment of \$400 million.

## Main Arab lender struggling with outstanding debts

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), the Arab World's chief lender, said it is increasingly strapped for funds as Iraq, Sudan and Somalia have failed to pay off more than half a billion dollars in debts.

The AMF said here in its annual report that it has halted loans to those three war-torn countries which accounted for most of the unpaid debts to the Abu Dhabi-based organisation.

"The AMF financial resources are under great pressure due to an increase in outstanding debts by some member states," the report said.

AMF members' total arrears stood around \$574 million at the end of 1992, representing nearly 46 per cent of the fund's capital and up from \$528 million in arrears at the end of 1991.

Iraq's outstanding debt was around \$232 million, Sudan's at \$220 million and Somalia's at \$107 million. Syria and Mauritania accounted for the rest. The debt includes nearly \$397 million in principal, \$149 million in interest and the rest in official interest.

In recent press comments, AMF Chairman Osama Al Faqih said such arrears were affecting the institution's obligations to other members, which badly need funds to finance economic reforms they have just launched.

Economists said they believed the problem could even exacerbate as Iraq is still under United Nations Gulf war sanctions while

the coffers of Sudan and Somalia have been sapped by civil wars.

Before the Gulf war, Iraq was the main contributor to the AMF along with the other oil-rich states in the region. But it was also the main beneficiary from the fund's loans which were used in tackling its balance of payment deficit.

The AMF, with a capital of around \$1.2 billion, was created by the Arab League in 1976 with the primary objective of tackling persistent balance of payment deficits, mainly in poor Arab nations.

But it recently began to switch activities to providing technical assistance and supporting economic reform after more than \$2.4 billion in soft-term loans produced no results.

According to the AMF report, the loans associated with economic reforms soared to 83 per cent of the total AMF loans between 1989 and 1992 from less than 25 per cent in the previous years.

"This was due to a revision of the fund's lending policy which now illustrates a strong tendency to support economic reform programmes in member states, which are eligible for receiving loans," it said.

It said loans and outstanding dues by some member states had sharply exceeded their share in the capital. Somalia's debt accounted for 380 per cent of its share, Sudan's for 308 per cent, Mauritania's for 242 per cent, Morocco's for 148 per cent and Iraq's for 120 per cent.

## Arab trade data base nearing completion

ABU DHABI (AFP) — An ambitious data base project lagged three years ago to begin flagging inter-Arab trade is now nearing completion and officials said they expect it to largely benefit local markets.

The Abu Dhabi-based Arab Trade Financing Programme (ATFP) is carrying out the project, which would distribute information on regional markets that have been little known to Arab exporters due to economic and political problems.

ATFP officials said they had launched the third and last phase of the project early this year, and the base would be light in early 1994.

"It is the first of its kind in the Arab World," the United Arab Emirates ATFP Chairman Osama Al Faqih told Al Bayan newspaper.

"The base will have a positive role in boosting inter-Arab trade as it will identify trade opportunities among regional countries," he said.

Officials said the data base was being set up with the help of the United Nations Development Programme and the International Trade Centre and it would be linked to computerised centres being established in Arab countries.

"It removes a major obstacle for trade among Arab states, which is the lack of information about regional markets. In the long-run, the project will have a great positive impact on inter-Arab trade," an ATFP official said.

The base would distribute information on the type of products, prices, supply and demand, export potentials, economic policies, exchange rates, transports, investments and trade agreements.

It is the second ambitious project carried out by the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) after it created ATFP with a capital of \$800 million. The AMF has financed half that capital and the rest was contributed by other regional banks and financial institutions.

## Russia hails first bond auction as success

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's central bank said Wednesday that commercial banks had bought less than \$1 million worth of treasury bills at a pioneering auction but declared it a revolutionary financial breakthrough.

The bank said commercial banks bought three-month bills with a nominal value of 885.4 million roubles (\$947,965) at the first auction of such securities Tuesday.

The tax-free paper, modelled on U.S. treasury bills, will not dear Russia's debt but could stop the central bank from printing so much inflationary cash to fund the internal debt.

Russian domestic debt is put at 10 trillion roubles (\$10.7 billion) by bankers and foreign debt esti-

mated at \$80 billion.

Despite the small amount sold, bank and finance ministry officials said it would set a benchmark for interest rates and help finance the budget deficit.

"For our banking community it is a big technical breakthrough," Deputy Bank Chairman Dmitry Tulin said. He jokingly compared its significance for Russia's financial community to that of the first space launch for Soviet science.

"We place very big hopes in the launch of these short-term state bonds. It's the first practical step towards a civilised, non-inflationary servicing of the budget deficit," Deputy Finance Minister Sergei Gorbatchev told a news conference.

He added that the government

expected to sell a total of 650 billion roubles (\$696 million) worth of bonds this year and had written this into its budget forecast.

Central bank officials said last week the budget deficit could hit seven trillion roubles (\$749 billion) by the end of June — the target originally set for the entire year.

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## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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Applicants should have a university degree in mechanical engineering, minimum 10 years experience, and excellent command of the English language.

Applications with detailed CV's should be sent to P.O. Box 9410, Amman, Jordan not later than 29.05.1993

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Welcome New World Order On Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 9:00 p.m.

Please make advance reservation

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	Canadian dollar	Deutschmarks	Dutch guilders	Swiss francs	Belgian francs	French francs	Italian lire	Japanese yen	Swedish crowns	Norwegian crowns	Danish crowns



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## Russia junks bid for U.N. summit on Bosnia

**AMM:** UNITED NATIONS (Agencies)

**Official** — Russia has abandoned its effort to convene a Security Council summit of foreign ministers to devise a peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina.

**Asian** — Russia wanted to force peace upon Bosnia's Serbs in stages, but

**Afghan** — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher disagreed.

**Middle East** — Moscow's failure reflects the divisions between Russia and the West and among North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies which have made the international community impotent in ending the war.

**Afghan** — Ministerial-level summits of the Security Council are sup-

**posed to provide a powerful ex-**

**visit** — pressio of the world's unan-

**ous** — will to curb aggression.

**Cover** — Instead, the Council will take

**up** — a bag of measures that are w

**ll** — quarantine the fighting in the Jorda

**former** — Yugoslav states:

**President** — It plans to station at least

**Cup** — 500 border patrol officers on Ser-

**bia's** — side of the Bosnian border

**In** — to make sure Serbian President

**Times** — Slobodan Milosevic keeps his

**execut** — promises to cut off oil and military

**follow** — supplies to Bosnian Serb milita-

**sub** — Mr. Milosevic declared the

**embargo** — after the Bosnian Serbs

**facing** — rejected a U.N. peace plan

**Mrafted** — by international mediators Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance.

**On** — Wednesday, the council

**will** — consult on establishing a war

**crimes** — tribunal in the Hague.

**It** — will also consider a French

**plan** — to protect 40,000 U.N. troops

**to** — six safe havens for

**Bosnia's** — outrun Muslims.

**Mon** — President Bill Clinton wants more

**aggressive** — action than this to curb

**Serbian** — advances.

**The** — Council will also discuss

**augmenting** — the U.N. observer

**force** — in Macedonia with U.S.

**revis** — European capitals vainly trying to

**rally** — support for the U.S. ap-

**propos** — Lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia so the Muslim

**to** — match the Serbs, and selective

**air** — strikes on Bosnian Serb targets.

**Britain** — and France fear the Serbs would retaliate by attacking U.N. peacekeepers, thousands of them British and French.

**Foes** — of lifting the arms embarg

**go** — argue it would only mean

**more** — violence.

**Fierce** — battles between Bosnia's

**Muslims** — and Croats also forced

**Washington** — to reexamine the region.

**Lord** — Bosnian Ambassador Muham-

**At** — mad Sacirby cautioned against a

**committee** — approach.

**"We** — believe that piecemeal

**measures** — can only ... prolog the

**agon** — of our people," he said.

**"Creating** — safe havens without

**any** — vision of how to fully implement the Vance-Owen plan or

**is** — uncertain if the U.N.-brokered

### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### U.S. to recognise Angolan government

**NEW YORK (AP)** — President Clinton has decided to recognise the Angolan government, reversing Washington's longstanding hostility toward the once-Soviet-backed regime, according to a published report. The New York Times reported in its Wednesday editions that Mr. Clinton would recognise the administration of Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, which is battling the rebel group Unio For Total Independence of Angola, known as UNITA. During the cold war, the United States and South Africa supported UNITA in its war against the Dos Santos government, which was supported by the Soviet Union and Cuba. The war broke out after the former Portuguese colony on the southwest coast of Africa gained independence in 1975. Last September, Mr. Dos Santos defeated rebel leader Jonas Savimbi in a U.N.-certified election. Mr. Dos Santos failed to achieve an overall majority, however, and was to face Mr. Savimbi in a runoff election. Mr. Savimbi returned to the battlefield, charging that the election was rigged.

#### Pretoria says U.S. report biased

**JOHANNESBURG (R)** — The South African government described as misleading and biased Wednesday a report by a U.S.-based human rights group which accused it of failing to act firmly against political violence in which thousands have died. Law And Order Ministry spokesman Craig Kotze said Africa Watch had chosen to ignore one of the prime causes of the violence, the power struggle between the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) of chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC). "The bias of this Africa Watch report, and its failure to take cognisance of the true nature of violence in South Africa, make it part of the problem, not the solution," he told Reuters.

#### Troops mutiny in Central Africa

**BANGUI (R)** — Regular troops in the Central African Republic staged a mutiny over pay Wednesday following a weekend rebellion by the elite Presidential Guard. Residents said the soldiers sealed off the state treasury and seized official vehicles in the capital Bangui early Wednesday. The mutineers also blocked the main road leading north out of the riverside capital, residents added. State radio was protected by members of an armoured regiment loyal to President Andre Kolingba, drawn mainly from his Yakoma ethnic group. Military sources said anger erupted when regular troops were paid only one month of their eight-month salary arrears Tuesday. Presidential Guards obtained two of the eight months' pay after a four-hour mutiny Saturday in which they took over the presidential palace, presidential residence and radio station.

#### Charles Praises Polish courage

**WARSAW (AP)** — Britain's Prince Charles won the hearts of Warsaw University professors and students when he quoted a Polish romantic poet in clear Polish. Earlier on the second of four days in Poland, the prince had laid a wreath of white, red and purple flowers at the monument to the 1944 Warsaw uprising against the Nazis, and praised the courage of the Polish people. He also met with Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka. At Warsaw University, the prince spoke of the spirit of Poles that "shone like a beacon" as they fought through an "appalling catalogue of unmentionable crimes." "This century, during the lifetime of our own parents, you have known an abyss of suffering which to most people in Britain is incomprehensible," he said. The prince began his address in Polish, quoting lines from a 19th century poet, Juliusz Slowacki. "I want my tongue to be flexible enough to express everything that the mind thinks of," Prince Charles said in Polish.

#### Moscow City to sue Gorbachev

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Mikhail Gorbachev's outspokenness is coming back to haunt him. Moscow officials said they will sue the former Soviet president for accusing them of building luxurious dachas, a news agency said. Mr. Gorbachev said on local television last week that the city government was building a dozen three-story country homes in a picturesque region outside the capital. He called for investigators to trace the source of the money.

**bring** — true peace to our country will do oot much more than cre-

**ate** — ethnic ghettos in our country ... a mini-Gaza Strip."

**Russian** — Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov, Council President for May, tried for weeks to convee a foreign ministers' meeting and tentatively set a Friday date.

**But** — Mr. Christopher said Monday he would not attend, and diplomat said China was among other nations unlikely to send ministers.

**Russian Foreign Minister** Andrei Kozyrev is due in Washington Thursday for talks with Mr. Christopher, followed Monday by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe.

**Mr.** — Christopher told the House Foreign Affairs Committee Tuesday:

"The only way out could en-

force ... (peace on) the Bosnian Serbs would be with troops on the ground. You certainly can't en-

force something as complex as the Vance-Owen plan with air power. And the United States is

not prepared to use its military forces to try to compel the parties to agree to a plan."

**He** — said he persuaded Mr. Kozyrev by phone Monday to postpone his proposal.

**Mr.** — Christopher bad toured

European capitals vainly trying to

rally support for the U.S. ap-

ropos

London (R) — A top think tank said Wednesday the United Nations had to choose which co-

nflict it could stop by sending in

troops and which it couldn't,

and that there was a better case for

intervening in Burma than in

a separate "Serb republic".

**U.N. Secretary-General** Boutros Ghali cast doubt on the future of peacekeeping forces in neighbouring Croatia, saying he was unsure whether to pull them out because of problems with local Serbs, toughen their mandate or leave their role unchanged.

**"There** — are simply not enough

human and financial resources

... to call to account all the in-

buitmoe regimes... that are

oppressing the weak and the in-

nocent around the world," said the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).

"For the same reasons as in

medicine, choices must be made

and resources must be rationed,"

it said in "strategic survey 1993."

**The** — institute said these three options very carefully, I have concluded that it would not be advisable for me at this moment to recommend that the (Security) Council adopt any of the options," he said.

**He** — added that he would await a

report from Lord Oweo's fellow

ambassador Thorvald Stoltenberg,

who recently succeeded former

U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and visiting the region.

**Lord** — Oweo's upbeat comments came after talks with Bosnian Muslim and Croat leaders Tuesday in the Bosnian town of Medjugorje, a Catholic place of pilgrimage near the city of Mostar, where Croat and Muslim forces were right to be wary of involvement in Bosnia.

**Even** — if peace could be imposed, it would collapse as soon as an outside force was withdrawn, it said.

**But** — it also criticised the European Community (EC) for engaging in "tortuous negotiations" which it described as being cyni-



A Croatian soldier peers carefully from his firing position during clashes between Croat and Muslim forces in Mostar (AFP photo)

## Better to intervene in Burma than Bosnia — U.K. think tank

**LONDON (R)** — A top think tank said Wednesday the United Nations had to choose which conflict it could stop by sending in troops and which it couldn't,

and that there was a better case for intervening in Burma than in a separate "Serb republic".

**U.N.** — The institute said the best policy now would be to impose tough penalties on countries that violated U.N. sanctions against Serbia, coupled with an offer of diplomatic and economic aid to the parties to the conflict once they decided to stop fighting.

**It** — said the bloodshed in Bosnia caused outrage among Western television viewers but that "in the cold terms of realpolitik" it did not threaten outside powers and U.N. choices should not be based on media coverage.

**"On** — humanitarian grounds and in defence of Western political values, a better argument can be made for intervening in Burma than in Bosnia-Herzegovina," the institute said.

**The** — institute said Somalia, where an ineffectual U.N. force of 500 men was followed last December by a 37,000-strong U.S.-led multinational force, showed what needed to be done where intervention was considered feasible.

**It** — is necessary to arm the sheriff and his posse and allow them to use those weapons to

enforce a peace that the local fighters themselves are unwilling to keep," it said.

**It** — said the U.N. had now learnt the lesson that sending a few peacekeepers into a chaotic situation, with inadequate logistical support, restrictive rules of engagement and a mandate that stopped them acting was a "meaningless gesture."

**Listing** — setbacks over the past year, the survey said the EC and the GATT trade talks failed to live up to hopes. Russia was in political and economic chaos, Middle East talks faltered, peace deals frayed in Angola and Cambodia, and famine stalked Africa.

**In** — Russia, the institute said that while as a general rule the international community should not rely on individuals, it should make an exception by aiding President Boris Yeltsin.

**"Yeltsin's** — shiny armor is tarnished, but he still appears the best man in Russia for this season," it said.

**The** — survey went to press before Mr. Yeltsin's victory last month in a referendum on his rule and sketched a disastrous picture of what would happen if he was ousted.

**It** — said the economy would spiral out of control, Russian regions would seize on the collapse of central government to assert control over their affairs and the new nations of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe would feel threatened.

**Amnesty** — International, which documented "tens of thousands" of human rights violations in the past 20 years, said the number of political killings by government force has dropped — "but we have yet to see whether this will be a lasting improvement."

**The** — students are also protesting against electricity price hikes implemented as part of an International Monetary Fund plan to end government subsidies.

**Political** — killings continue in Guatemala, despite the civilian government's pledge to end them, Amnesty International said Wednesday.

**Fire** — brigades said they took 16 riot policemen to hospital while

**Opponents** — of President Jorge Serrano Elias

## Guatemalan lawmaker shot bodyguard killed

**GUATEMALA CITY (Agencies)** — unidentified gunmen opened fire on Guatemalan